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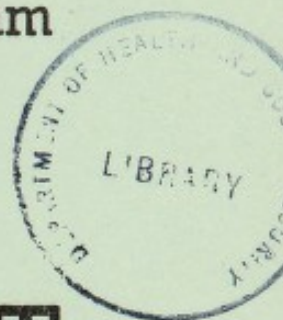
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The Urban District Council of Hexham

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

and

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR

For the Year 1969

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

J. K. PATTERSON, M.A.P.H.I.  
Chief Public Health Inspector

R. GARDENER, M.A.P.H.I.  
.. Assistant Public Health Inspector

B. MAKEPEACE, S.M.A.P.H.I.  
Student 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 submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1969.

The main function of the Medical Officer of Health is to safeguard the health of the district. He is expected to learn as fully as possible about local social, environmental and industrial conditions, and to use this knowledge to advise the Council on matters of public health and preventive medicine, and to draw their attention to any circumstances that may adversely affect the health of the community. The Council are asked each year to instruct the Medical Officer of Health to prepare a Report dealing with the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration and vital statistics as well as public health matters he may consider worthy of comment, and this Report I herewith present. Copies of the Report must be sent to various Ministries and other bodies, and the contents are regarded as of general as well as local interest.

In a town such as Hexham there is as a rule little change in conditions, at least from year to year, although there has been much improvement in health and living conditions over a longer period. It is sufficient to describe Hexham as a busy and prosperous market town, the administrative and cultural centre for a large area, and an increasing attraction to visitors. In addition to its natural and historic interest it is fortunate in having so much open space and the opportunity of many outdoor recreations.

The estimated mid-year population has been about 10,000 for many years, and for 1969 the estimate is 9,930. This is a reduction in 70 from the previous year, and the excess of deaths over births is 41, the birth rate being considerably lower and the death rate somewhat above the figure for England and Wales. It is regrettable to have to record for the second successive year a very unfavourable infant mortality rate, that in 1969 being exactly three times the figure for the country as a whole. Against this disappointing rate it can be said that three of the six infant deaths were due to prematurity and can be considered non-preventable, and that more significance can be attached to statistics over a longer period than one year. When one looks at the figures



over the past 20 years, tabulated elsewhere in the Report, the picture is more satisfactory. Deaths beyond the age of one year conform very much to the pattern of recent years in Hexham and elsewhere. Diseases of the heart and circulation, vascular diseases of the nervous system, and cancer remain the most frequent causes of death and almost half the deaths were of people aged 75 or more.

The control of infectious disease has been one of the most outstanding achievements in medicine. This is because the causes are better understood and therefore more subject to control than in most other diseases. The incidence and death rate of bacterial and virus infections have fallen remarkably in recent years, and the notifications during 1969 were few in number and importance. There were however four notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis, with one death, all in patients of middle age and over who presumably had an earlier primary infection. The pattern has changed very much of recent years, and whereas some twenty years ago the disease was most common in young people and very often fatal, now it is most commonly a disease of middle life and less serious. Improved housing, the vaccination with B.C.G. of school children, and the development of specific anti-tuberculosis drugs have all played their part in improving the situation so much.

Regular sampling of milk sold by producer-retailers is undertaken, but the negative results obtained should not be allowed to give a false sense of security. Four cases of undulant fever were reported during the year, due to infections with *Brucella abortus*, and as the disease is not notifiable there may have been more cases. The regular milk supply of all the patients was from one source, and was unpasteurised. Investigations showed that samples from eight cows of the herd grew *Brucella abortus*, and accordingly on 30th July, 1969, a notice was served under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1959, requiring that satisfactory heat treatment be given before the milk was sold. The notice was withdrawn on October 24th, and samples from the herd have proved negative since then.

The environmental health services attempt to control external factors which are known to affect health. Adequate housing, a pure water supply, and clean food must be ensured,



together with adequate arrangements for the disposal of refuse and sewage. These subjects are therefore included in the Annual Report in so far as they concern the Health Department. Of more recent interest is the health of workers in shops and offices as well as in factories, and the importance of clean air and the avoidance of excessive noise are now recognised.

The position appears to have been reached where sufficient family houses have been built by the Council, and at present no more are planned. There is however an increasing demand for accommodation for the elderly, and it is hoped to provide both bungalows and special housing for the frail elderly. The sheltered accommodation is to be in St. Cuthbert's Close, a name chosen in advance to replace the word hostel with its unsatisfactory associations for prospective tenants. This project is in the final stage of planning and design, and will be a most useful addition to meet the need that exists. A small scale investigation by the Department showed that in the existing bungalows the heating arrangements were inadequate for old people, and the Council propose to provide them with central heating.

Hexham is provided with mains water of satisfactory quantity and quality, by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company as the statutory water undertakers. Samples are taken frequently by the Company and less frequently by the Health Department, and should a sample be unsatisfactory remedial action is taken by the Company without delay. The water has a low fluoride content and the supply to a small part of the town has now added fluoride to bring the level to one part per million. Very few properties in Hexham still have a private supply, and in these cases the responsibility lies with the Council. Where necessary advice is given or action taken.

The comments in the Annual Report for 1968 on the new joint sewerage and sewage disposal scheme with Hexham Rural District were considered inappropriate by the Council, and they directed that the word "adequately" as related to the service provided to the town should be deleted. The position remained much the same during 1969, and discussions have taken place with the officers of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Consulting Engineer on the action to be taken to improve the situation.

The Council continue to take an active interest in the work of the Health Department, and I appreciate their support and encouragement. The Clerk and other officers are due my thanks for their help and co-operation, and the staff for their continued efficiency.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



**STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA**

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Area in Acres .. .. .        | 5,932 |
| Estimated Population .. .. . | 9,930 |

**Vital Statistics****BIRTHS :**

| LIVE BIRTHS          | M. | F. | Total     |
|----------------------|----|----|-----------|
| Legitimate.. .. .    | 54 | 54 | 108       |
| Illegitimate .. .. . | —  | 3  | 3         |
|                      |    |    | <hr/> 111 |
| STILL BIRTHS         | M. | F. | Total     |
| Legitimate.. .. .    | 1  | —  | 1         |
| Illegitimate .. .. . | —  | 1  | 1         |
|                      |    |    | <hr/> 2   |

|                                                                                 |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .. .. .                   | 11.9  |
| Total Live and Still Births .. .. .                                             | 113   |
| Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .. .. . | 12.06 |
| Still-births Rate per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .                       | 18.0  |
| Live Birth Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population.. .. .                 | 16.3  |
| Still-births Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .   | 13.0  |

**DEATHS :**

|                                                                       |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Total deaths .. .. .                                                  | 152  |
| Total infant deaths .. .. .                                           | 6    |
| Infant deaths under four weeks .. .. .                                | 4    |
| Deaths of infants under one year of age :—                            |      |
| Legitimate infants .. .. .                                            | 6    |
| Illegitimate infants .. .. .                                          | Nil  |
| Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births .. .. .                     | 54.0 |
| Infantile Mortality, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births .. .. . | 18.0 |
| Infantile Mortality (Legitimate) per 1,000 births .. .. .             | 54.0 |
| Infantile Mortality (Illegitimate) per 1,000 live births .. .. .      | Nil  |



|                                                                                                                          |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Infantile Mortality (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births .. .. .                                                     | 36.0 |
| Infantile Mortality (under one week of age) per 1,000 live births .. .. .                                                | 36.0 |
| Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under one week combined) per 1,000 total live and still-births .. .. . | 53.0 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births..                                                                 | 3.0  |
| Deaths from Maternal causes.. .. .                                                                                       | Nil  |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .                                                          | Nil  |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .                                                                                    | 34   |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and ages) .. .. .                                           | 13.5 |
| Death Rate England and Wales per 1,000 population all causes and ages) .. .. .                                           | 11.9 |

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

|             | Male | Female |
|-------------|------|--------|
| 0—1         | 2    | 4      |
| 1—4         | —    | —      |
| 5—14        | —    | —      |
| 15—24       | —    | 3      |
| 25—34       | —    | —      |
| 35—44       | 1    | —      |
| 45—54       | 2    | 2      |
| 56—64       | 13   | 7      |
| 65—74       | 23   | 25     |
| 75 and Over | 24   | 46     |
|             | 65   | 87     |

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

|                                               | M.         | F. |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|----|
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system .. .. .    | —          | 1  |
| Malignant neoplasm—stomach .. .. .            | 8          | 1  |
| —lung, bronchus .. .. .                       | 3          | 3  |
| —breast .. .. .                               | —          | 3  |
| —buccal cavity, etc. .. .. .                  | 1          | 1  |
| —oesophagus .. .. .                           | —          | 1  |
| —intestine .. .. .                            | 2          | 3  |
| Other malignant neoplasms .. .. .             | 4          | 4  |
| Benign and unspecified neoplasms .. .. .      | —          | 1  |
| Diabetes mellitus .. .. .                     | 1          | 1  |
| Anaemias .. .. .                              | 1          | —  |
| Chronic rheumatic heart disease .. .. .       | —          | 1  |
| Hypertensive diseases .. .. .                 | —          | 1  |
| Ischaemic heart disease .. .. .               | 18         | 20 |
| Other forms of heart disease .. .. .          | —          | 3  |
| Cerebrovascular disease .. .. .               | 6          | 17 |
| Influenza .. .. .                             | —          | 1  |
| Pneumonia .. .. .                             | 2          | 3  |
| Bronchitis and emphysema .. .. .              | 7          | 1  |
| Peptic ulcer .. .. .                          | 2          | 1  |
| Intestinal obstruction and hernia .. .. .     | 1          | —  |
| Congenital anomalies .. .. .                  | 1          | —  |
| Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. .. .. .  | 2          | 1  |
| Other causes of perinatal mortality .. .. .   | —          | 1  |
| Other diseases of nervous system .. .. .      | —          | 2  |
| Other diseases of circulatory system .. .. .  | 3          | 7  |
| Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .  | 1          | —  |
| Other diseases of digestive system .. .. .    | 1          | 2  |
| Other diseases, genito-urinary system .. .. . | 1          | —  |
| Diseases of musculo-skeletal system .. .. .   | —          | 1  |
| All other accidents .. .. .                   | —          | 5  |
| All other external causes .. .. .             | —          | 1  |
| All causes .. .. .                            | 65         | 87 |
| <b>TOTAL</b> .. .. .                          | <b>152</b> |    |



# INFANT MORTALITY

During Year ending 31st December, 1969

| Causes of Death                        | Under<br>1 week | Total<br>Deaths<br>Under<br>1 year |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Birth injury,<br>difficult labour ..   | 3               | 3                                  |
| Other causes of<br>perinatal mortality | —               | 1                                  |
| Diseases of nervous<br>system .. ..    | —               | 1                                  |
| Accident .. ..                         | —               | 1                                  |
|                                        | 3               | 6                                  |

## VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

| Year | Birth Rate | Death Rate | Infant<br>Mortality<br>Rate |
|------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 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                        |
| 1966 | 15.8       | 12.6       | 19.5                        |
| 1967 | 17.8       | 11.7       | —                           |
| 1968 | 14.9       | 12.9       | 33.4                        |
| 1969 | 11.9       | 13.5       | 54.0                        |

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1969**

| 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 ..   | 3           | 1        | 1        | 2        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1           | 1             |
| Measles ..         | 1           | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1           | 1             |
| Dysentery ..       | 1           | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1           | 1             |
| Food Poisoning ..  | 2           | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1           | 1             |
| <b>TOTALS ..</b>   | <b>7</b>    | <b>3</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b>    | <b>1</b>      |



## TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1969 :—

| 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 ..    | —         | —  | —         | —  | —                                    | —  | —         | —  |
| 25—34 ..    | —         | —  | —         | —  | —                                    | —  | —         | —  |
| 35—44 ..    | —         | —  | —         | —  | —                                    | —  | —         | —  |
| 45—54 ..    | 1         | —  | —         | —  | —                                    | —  | —         | —  |
| 55—64 ..    | —         | 1  | —         | —  | —                                    | 1  | —         | —  |
| 65 & over   | 1         | 1  | —         | —  | —                                    | —  | —         | —  |
| TOTALS ..   | 2         | 2  | —         | —  | —                                    | 1  | —         | —  |

**FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)  
RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL**

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

## 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—2      Unknown cause—Nil.      Total—2

## 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.

Second and third Tuesdays in every month, 1-30 p.m.  
— 4 p.m.

First, second and third 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.  
Fourth and fifth Wednesdays 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 CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

(Mr. J. K. PATTERSON)

The following pages summarise the work done in the Health Department by the Public Health Inspectors.

Much of the daily work is of a routine nature and by its very nature does not lend itself to the type of presentation in an Annual Report that it deserves. However it is gratifying to know that in the main a satisfactory picture evolves at the end of the year's work. In particular, the Department can regard the establishment of the town's latest caravan site as an achievement, being, as it is a leader of its type in the County. The Department's work in dealing with the food hygiene side of its duties should also be noted. This is a subject where education and example is perhaps the best possible way of getting the message across. Several lectures have been given to various organisations on the subject, with it is felt, worthwhile results.

We are about to enter the seventies and there is little doubt that the state of man's environment is going to play an increasing part in the work of the public health inspector, perhaps not least in persuading the population not to pollute the natural facilities, and wherever possible, to reclaim those already being spoiled. Included in this, should also be pollution by noise, which is for many, becoming more than just an inconvenience.

Mr. B. Makepeace, the Student Public Health Inspector in the Department, passed Part I of the Diploma qualifying as a public health inspector, and this was gratifying to the officers of the Department concerned with his training.

The new Housing Act of this year will, it is anticipated, provide a useful means of improving older properties and so relieving the general housing position. Up till now the Department has been studying the Act and formulating its general policy in regard to its operation.

### INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

|                                                       |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Factories and Workplaces .. .. .                      | 126          |
| Milk and Dairies .. .. .                              | 43           |
| Drainage Works : Alterations—additions .. .. .        | 17           |
| New Constructions .. .. .                             | 45           |
| Defective .. .. .                                     | 1            |
| Water Supply .. .. .                                  | 19           |
| Food Premises .. .. .                                 | 451          |
| Slaughter House .. .. .                               | 491          |
| Caravan Control .. .. .                               | 73           |
| Clean Air .. .. .                                     | 3            |
| Offensive Trades .. .. .                              | —            |
| Visits, Public Health Acts .. .. .                    | 268          |
| Disinfestation of Rats, Mice and other Vermin .. .. . | 36           |
| Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act .. .. .        | 185          |
| TOTAL .. .. .                                         | <u>1,790</u> |

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

#### Sanitary Circumstances

##### Drainage Works

All drains are tested by smoke or by hydraulic test.

|                                            |           |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total length of 4" drain .. .. .           | 1,494 ft. |
| "      "      6" .. .. .                   | Nil       |
| New properties .. .. .                     | 13        |
| Improvements to existing properties.. .. . | 11        |

##### Sanitary conveniences

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Additional baths provided .. .. . | 26 |
| Additional sinks provided .. .. . | 26 |

#### Notifiable Diseases

Routine visits were paid to all cases of infectious diseases notified to the department, and the necessary action taken.

1 case of sonne dysentery was notified during the year. A total of 34 faecal specimens were submitted to the public health laboratory for examination and report.

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the district.



### Disinfestation

No cases arose during the year where it was found necessary to carry out full scale disinfestation.

Once again the common household ant gave rise to several complaints. Treatment with approved insecticides quickly brought them under control.

Spraying of the Council's refuse tip at Frankham was carried out during the period April to August, and a satisfactory degree of control was achieved.

A small number of complaints were received from householders in regard to the domestic fly. Advice and guidance were given. In one or two cases the garden refuse dump was found to be the source of trouble. After suitable precautions were taken the nuisance abated.

### Swimming Pool

The one privately owned swimming pool used by members of the public continued to be maintained in a satisfactory condition. Two samples of water were obtained and both were reported upon as satisfactory.

### Water Supply

The public supply is administered by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and no problems arose during the year. Hexham is fortunate in having a sufficient and wholesome supply of water and one which gives little concern to this Department. The ready co-operation of the Water Company officials when asked for is greatly appreciated.

Regular sampling of the supply is undertaken, the public health laboratory, Newcastle, being responsible for the analyses. The Company also makes regular checks, the results of both being shewn in the tables following.

|                                                  |    |
|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of samples collected by the department .. | 22 |
|--------------------------------------------------|----|

|                                                  |    |
|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of samples collected by the Water Company | 23 |
|--------------------------------------------------|----|

all of which were found to be of satisfactory quality.

During the year investigations were carried out into the supply, the source of which was a spring and collecting chamber some half mile distant, to the Council's Cemetery and Superintendent's house. This supply was found to be contaminated and of an intermittent nature. Immediate



action was taken by the Surveyor's Department in co-operation with the Health Department to ensure that a safe supply was made available. Plans are now in hand along with other improvements at the Cemetery, to connect this house to the town's mains.

The other private supplies continue to be checked periodically and a satisfactory standard has been maintained.

#### **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      | 0.1 max.           |
|                  |    |    | 0.2 max.         |                    |

#### **FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955**

All food premises in the area are systematically visited, and during the year the standards in the various premises have remained satisfactory.

#### **Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960**

There are 90 food premises of various types within the district, 57 of which are registered under the main Act either for the sale of ice-cream or manufacture of sausages, etc. Overall there has been a reduction in the number of food premises, due in part to the concentrating of this type of trading into larger units in accordance with the national trend. During the year the town acquired its first supermarket. The Department was concerned from the planning stage to final completion in ensuring that all the necessary hygienic facilities were provided. The introduction of the micro-wave oven to snack bars and the provision of take-home meals by this type of trader has not created any undue problems, though this type of food preparation is kept constantly under review.

The following table details the food premises within the district :—

| Type of Business                | Total No. | No. complying with Reg. 16 | Premises to which Reg. 19 applies | Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bakehouses .. ..                | 6         | 6                          | 6                                 | 6                                    |
| Butchers .. ..                  | 10        | 10                         | 10                                | 10                                   |
| Grocers .. ..                   | 20        | 20                         | 20                                | 20                                   |
| Catering Establishments ..      | 20        | 20                         | 20                                | 20                                   |
| Public houses ..                | 11        | 11                         | —                                 | —                                    |
| Greengrocers ..                 | 6         | 6                          | 6                                 | 6                                    |
| Wet fish shops ..               | 3         | 3                          | 3                                 | 3                                    |
| Fried fish shops ..             | 3         | 3                          | 3                                 | 3                                    |
| Ice-cream dealers/ sweets .. .. | 18        | 18                         | —                                 | —                                    |
| Confectioners ..                | 6         | 6                          | 6                                 | 6                                    |

### Ice-Cream Heat Treatment Regulations

There are 3 registered manufacturers in the district, one of which has a heat treatment plant. The other two rely on cold mix type manufacture. All three plants are regularly visited and a high standard of hygiene has been maintained throughout.

There are 50 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and no cases of unsatisfactory handling occurred during the year.

Number of new registrations during the year .. 5

Number of samples collected .. .. 11

Results of examination :—

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Grade 1 .. | 8 |
| „ 2 ..     | 2 |
| „ 3 ..     | — |
| „ 4 ..     | 1 |

### Milk Special Designation Regulations 1960

Following the change over at the local dairy to it receiving its raw milk for heat treatment, by bulk tanker in place of individual churns, routine sampling of raw milk was discontinued. The County Council Health Department



continued to take regular samples of milk from the heat treatment plant, and from the various dealers and schools in the area supplied by this dairy.

|                                                                               |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of samples collected for keeping<br>quality, i.e. Methylene Blue .. .. | 14 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

### Brucellosis

Sampling of the milk from the three producer retailers in the district was carried out in accordance with Circular 17/66 of the Ministry of Health.

During the year, one of these producers retired and a further one became accredited under the Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

During routine sampling one of the herds was reported to be infected with *Brucella abortus*, this being confirmed by the culture examination. Notice was served on the producer concerned under Section 20 of the milk and Dairy Regulations 1959, requiring that the milk concerned be subject to heat treatment. This notice remained in force for some three months, during which time the infected animals were located and removed, and subsequent samples taken over the approved period showed the milk to be free from infection. During the investigations a total of 174 samples were obtained.

Since the lifting of the restrictions regular sampling continued, and no further positive results were reported.

|                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Number of samples of raw milk examined | 206 |
| (2) Number of positive samples found ..    | 46  |

### The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

|                                                                                               |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (i) Number of egg pasteurisation plants in<br>the district .. .. .                            | Nil |
| (ii) Number of samples of liquid egg submitted<br>to the Alpha-Amylase test and their results | Nil |
| (iii) Comments on the year's administration of<br>these Regulations .. .. .                   | —   |

**Poultry Inspection**

|       |                                                                     |     |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (i)   | Number of poultry processing premises within the district .. .. .   | Nil |
| (ii)  | Number of visits to these premises.. ..                             | Nil |
| (iii) | Total number of birds processed during the year .. .. .             | Nil |
| (iv)  | Types of birds processed .. .. .                                    | Nil |
| (v)   | Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption .. .. . | Nil |
| (vi)  | Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption .. .. .  | Nil |
| (vii) | Comments on poultry processing and inspection .. .. .               | Nil |

**The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.**

These regulations continue to be satisfactorily operated. The stalls in the Council's open air market are visited regularly and where required the traders' attention is drawn to the relevant Sections. New traders are advised of their responsibilities when commencing trading.

Frequent checks are made to mobile shops. In the main these are operated by the larger firms and are found to be satisfactory.



## FOOD INSPECTION

| UNSOUND FOOD                                 |    |    |  | Surrendered | Seized          | Legal<br>Pro-<br>ceedings |
|----------------------------------------------|----|----|--|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
|                                              |    |    |  | sts. lbs.   |                 |                           |
| Beef (Home-killed)                           | .. |    |  | 113         | 9               | —                         |
| Beef (Imported)                              | .. |    |  | —           | —               | —                         |
| Mutton (Home-killed)                         | .. |    |  | 46          | 13              | —                         |
| Mutton (Imported)                            | .. |    |  | —           | —               | —                         |
| Pork                                         | .. | .. |  | 59          | 13              | —                         |
| Game                                         | .. | .. |  | —           | —               | —                         |
| Poultry                                      | .. | .. |  | —           | —               | —                         |
| Veal                                         | .. | .. |  | 18          | 5               | —                         |
|                                              |    |    |  | lbs. ozs.   |                 |                           |
| Fish                                         | .. | .. |  | —           | —               | —                         |
| Fruit                                        | .. | .. |  | —           | —               | —                         |
| Canned Goods (Meat)                          | .. |    |  | 104         | 15              | —                         |
| " " (Assorted)                               |    |    |  | 107         | 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ | —                         |
| Bacon                                        | .. | .. |  | 17          | —               | —                         |
| Cheese                                       | .. | .. |  | 50          | —               | —                         |
| Butter                                       | .. | .. |  | —           | —               | —                         |
| Lard                                         | .. | .. |  | —           | —               | —                         |
| Eggs                                         | .. | .. |  | —           | —               | —                         |
| Other Foods                                  | .. | .. |  | 112         | —               | —                         |
| Frozen Foods                                 | .. | .. |  | —           | —               | —                         |
| TOTAL .. 266 st. 11 lbs. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. |    |    |  |             |                 |                           |

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

|                                                                                                        | Cattle<br>excl'd'g<br>Cows | Cows  | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs  | Totals |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| Number killed ..                                                                                       | 1,350                      | 23    | 16     | 4,217                 | 1,594 | 7,200  |
| Number not inspected ..                                                                                | Nil.                       | Nil.  | Nil.   | Nil.                  | Nil.  | Nil.   |
| <hr/>                                                                                                  |                            |       |        |                       |       |        |
| <i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i><br>Whole carcasses condemned ..                | 2                          | 1     | 2      | 11                    | 3     | 19     |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..                                                  | 35                         | 3     | 2      | 70                    | 65    | 175    |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and and cysticerci .. | 2.74                       | 17.39 | 25.0   | 1.89                  | 4.25  |        |
| <hr/>                                                                                                  |                            |       |        |                       |       |        |
| <i>Tuberculosis only :</i><br>Whole carcasses condemned ..                                             | Nil.                       | Nil.  | Nil.   | Nil.                  | Nil.  |        |
| Carcases 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.  |        |
| <hr/>                                                                                                  |                            |       |        |                       |       |        |
| <i>C. Bovis</i><br>Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..                               | Nil.                       | Nil.  | Nil.   | Nil.                  | Nil.  |        |
| Carcases 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<br>Bulls | Calves | Sheep<br>Lambs | Rams<br>Ewes | Pigs  | Sows<br>Boars |
|--------|---------|---------------|--------|----------------|--------------|-------|---------------|
| 231    | 1,116   | 26            | 16     | 4,155          | 62           | 1,579 | 15            |



## SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL

|                  | Tuberculosis | Other Diseases | Total |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
|                  | lbs.         | lbs.           | lbs.  |
| Cows .. ..       | Nil.         | 498            | 498   |
| Other Animals .. | Nil.         | 2,622          | 2,622 |
| TOTAL ..         | Nil.         | 3,120          | 3,120 |

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

|                                      | 1957  | 1958 | 1959  | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966  | 1967  | 1968 | 1969 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|
| Whole Carcases condemned             | 3     | 5    | 3     | 5    | —    | 1    | 1    | —    | —    | —     | —     | —    | —    |
| Part Carcases or organs affected ... | 21    | 48   | 39    | 33   | 9    | 14   | 7    | —    | 2    | 1     | 1     | —    | —    |
| Percentage affected ...              | 6.3 % | 7.8% | 11.3% | 9.5% | 3.1% | 5%   | 6.6% | —    | 3.0% | .72 % | 2.94% | —    |      |

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54

Renewals of Licences to Slaughter .. .. 3

**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**

|                                                                   | TYPE OF PROPERTY |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
|                                                                   | Non-Agricultural | Agricultural |
| Number of properties in district .. ..                            | 4,178            | 60           |
| Total number of properties inspected following notification .. .. | 83               | 2            |
| Number infested by rats .. ..                                     | 50               | 1            |
| Number infested by mice .. ..                                     | 6                | —            |
| Number of properties inspected other than by notification .. ..   | 10               | —            |
| Number infested by rats .. ..                                     | 1                | —            |
| Number infested by mice .. ..                                     | 1                | —            |

**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**

Sections 3 and 5 of this Act are administered by the local authority. There are 36 farms and holdings within the district.

The arrangements provided by the owners have been found to be satisfactory in relation to the size of the premises.

**SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964**

Under the provisions of this Act registration of dealers is carried out by the local authority, the Act being administered by the Police.

There are 8 registered dealers within the district.



## OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

During the year an inspection system based on the principles laid down by H.M. Factory Inspectorate was initiated. This together with the visits to registered premises made for other reasons, will enable the Department to ensure that all the many aspects of this very complicated Act are brought to the attention of those concerned with its requirements.

Cases still occur where the occupier has not registered his premises. However it is usually only a short period before this oversight, usually through ignorance of the law, becomes apparent and the necessary procedure complied with.

**Table A : Registrations and General Inspections**

| CLASS OF PREMISES                                            | Number Newly registered during year | Total number at end of year | Number of general inspections |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Offices .. .. .                                              | 5                                   | 76                          | 34                            |
| Retail shops .. .. .                                         | 11                                  | 110                         | 67                            |
| Wholesale shops, warehouses .. .. .                          | —                                   | 2                           | —                             |
| Catering establishments open to the public, canteens .. .. . | —                                   | 17                          | 8                             |
| Fuel storage depots .. .. .                                  | —                                   | 1                           | 1                             |
| Totals .. .. .                                               | 16                                  | 206                         | 110                           |

**Table B : Number of visits of all kinds .. .. . 185**

**Table C : Analysis of Persons Employed**

| Class of workplace                                          | Number of persons employed |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Offices .. .. .                                             | 437                        |
| Retail shops .. .. .                                        | 723                        |
| Wholesale departments, warehouses .. .. .                   | 9                          |
| Catering establishments open to the public/canteens .. .. . | 85                         |
| Fuel storage depots .. .. .                                 | 2                          |
| TOTAL : .. .. .                                             | 1256                       |
| (Males 483 : Females 773)                                   |                            |

**FACTORIES ACT, 1961****Inspections** (Including Inspections by Public Health Inspector).

| PREMISES                                                                                                       | Number<br>on<br>Register | Number of   |                    |                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                                                |                          | Inspections | Written<br>Notices | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted |
| (I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..                 | 2                        | 2           | —                  | —                       |
| (II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. ..                 | 77                       | 111         | 5                  | —                       |
| (III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) .. | 5                        | 13          | —                  | —                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b> ..                                                                                                | 84                       | 126         | 5                  | —                       |

**CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND**

| PARTICULARS                                                 | Number of Cases in which Defects were found |          |              |              |                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                             | Found                                       | Remedied | Referred     |              | No. of cases<br>in which<br>pro-<br>secutions<br>were<br>instituted |
|                                                             |                                             |          | To<br>H.M.I. | By<br>H.M.I. |                                                                     |
| Want of Cleanliness .. ..                                   | —                                           | —        | —            | —            | —                                                                   |
| Overcrowding .. ..                                          | —                                           | —        | —            | —            | —                                                                   |
| Unreasonable Temperature ..                                 | —                                           | —        | —            | —            | —                                                                   |
| Inadequate Ventilation ..                                   | —                                           | —        | —            | —            | —                                                                   |
| Ineffective Drainage of Floors                              | —                                           | —        | —            | —            | —                                                                   |
| Sanitary Conveniences—                                      |                                             |          |              |              |                                                                     |
| (a) Insufficient .. ..                                      | 1                                           | 1        | —            | —            | —                                                                   |
| (b) Unsuitable or Defective                                 | 4                                           | 2        | —            | —            | —                                                                   |
| (c) Not Separate for Sexes..                                | —                                           | —        | —            | —            | —                                                                   |
| Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork) | —                                           | —        | —            | —            | —                                                                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b> .. ..                                          | 5                                           | 3        | —            | —            | —                                                                   |

There are no Registered Outworkers within the district.



### **CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960**

There are four private holiday sites operating within the district, licensed for eight months in the year, from March to October, a total of 328 sites being available.

During the year a new site adjacent to Tyne Green was brought into use. This site is fully equipped with all the necessary facilities in the most modern manner, and catering as it does for 133 caravans, will be a great asset to the town.

All the sites are visited regularly during the season and it is pleasing to record that they were at all times found to be operating in a satisfactory manner.

No problems were encountered with gypsies during the year, and no proposals were received under the Caravan Act 1968 for the establishment of sites for them.

### **CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956**

During the year, consideration was given to the air pollution problem and from general observations on several occasions embracing all normal weather patterns, it was felt that in fact there is no evidence within the district which would merit the submission of smoke control areas to the Ministry.

A high proportion of the houses both privately and Council owned, now have smokeless fuel equipment, either solid smokeless fuel, gas or electricity. The advent of North Sea Gas to the area in October appears to have accelerated the change-over to this type of fuel.

There are little or no problems with the small number of industrial premises, the majority of which are now burning gas or oil. Even the ubiquitous waste oil stove used in the past by garages is almost a thing of the past, having been superseded by the portable fan-driven kerosene heater or overhead gas radiants.

The policy of the Council in replacing defective fireplaces with modern closed stoves or gas fires as the need arises, and the general advice given to residents along similar lines together with the matters already mentioned, have resulted in a generally improved position and one which will continue as the trend to smokeless fuels continues.

**NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960**

Number of visits.. .. . 28

This Act has been used informally from time to time. However, where complaints have been received by mobile ice-cream dealers and their like, action has not been possible, since the noise concerned was within the permitted hours laid down.

Two cases of industrial noise were dealt with satisfactorily, as was the noise from a milking machine compressor. In all these cases the occupiers co-operated willingly with the Department to combat the effects of the operations concerned. During re-surfacing of parts of the trunk road through the town, several complaints were received regarding the noise from the pneumatic drills. After approach being made to the contractors, mufflers were provided for the drills and this action was successful in reducing the noise to a reasonable level.

Noise is rapidly becoming a health problem and there is little doubt that strenuous efforts will have to be continued in order to keep it down to a tolerable level. To this end, the Department pays close regard to all new developments, in particular where noise problems can be foreseen.



## HOUSING

## TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1969

| NEW HOUSES COMPLETED<br>DURING THE YEAR   | With State<br>Assistance | Unaided | Total |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| (a) By Local Authority ..                 | Nil                      | —       | —     |
| (b) By any other Author-<br>ority .. .. . | Nil                      | —       | —     |
| (c) By Private Persons ..                 | Nil                      | 18      | 18    |

|                                                        |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Total Number of Inhabited Houses in District .. ..     | 3,461 |
| Total Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority .. | 1,077 |
| Estimated Population .. .. .                           | 9,930 |

## 1.—Closing and Demolition of Houses

|                                                                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Number of houses demolished as a result of clearance<br>Schemes .. .. .                       | Nil |
| (Number of houses included in above which were from<br>pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) .. .. . | Nil |
| (2) Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or<br>informal procedure .. .. .            | Nil |
| (3) Houses closed, including partial closure .. ..                                                | 2   |
| (4) Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings..                                          | Nil |

## 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 .. .. .          | 17  |
| (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<br>under Public Health or Housing Acts .. .. . | 51  |
| (2) Number of houses and parts found to have defects ..                                               | 14  |
| (3) Number of houses and parts found to be wholly unfit<br>for human habitation .. .. .               | Nil |

## 4.—Housing Act, 1949

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

|                                                                                    |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) <i>Discretionary</i> :                                                         |     |
| Applications submitted to local authority .. ..                                    | 21  |
| Applications rejected by local authority .. ..                                     | Nil |
| Applications approved .. .. .                                                      | 21  |
| Total number of applications approved in area since<br>inception of scheme .. .. . | 230 |
| (b) <i>Standard</i> :                                                              |     |
| Number of houses for which grants have been made<br>during the year .. .. .        | 8   |
| Total number to date .. .. .                                                       | 72  |

**5.—Families Rehoused during 1969***Under points scheme :*

|                     |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| From private houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13 |
| From Council houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1  |

*Other Cases :*

|                              |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| For medical reasons          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1   |
| Under eviction orders        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1   |
| From unfit houses..          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Key workers                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1   |
| For other reasons            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3   |
| Exchange from private houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |

*Decanted from Council houses :*

|                        |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| For moral overcrowding | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19 |
| For under-occupation   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| For medical reasons    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —  |
| For other reasons      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 32 |

*To aged persons' bungalows :*

|                      |    |    |    |    |    |   |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| From Council houses  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 |
| From private houses  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| From other bungalows | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |

*Applicants rehoused other than by Urban Council :*

|                            |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| By other local authorities | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5  |
| Privately                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| Cancelled applications     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 22 |

**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 |

**HOUSING ACT 1969**

No formal action was taken under this Act since only a short period of time elapsed from its introduction to the end of the year under review.

It is anticipated that the Act will prove to be of great assistance in raising the standards in existing houses, and plans are in hand to use the Act to its fullest advantage.















