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REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.




Houghton-le-Spring Urban District
Council.

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Houghton-le-Spring,

August, 1941.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I herewith submit the fourth Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department, being for the year 1940.

War conditions have resulted in much extra work being undertaken by the department, and has held up certain other developments such as re-housing.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the assistance of Council and Staff so readily given at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

LILIAN A. M. JOHNSTON.

To the Chairman and Members,

Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The Staff consists of :—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Whole time appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews). The Medical Officer is the Medical Superintendent of the Council's Isolation Hospitals.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act.

SANITARY INSPECTOR — No. 2 District. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

SANITARY INSPECTOR — No. 3 District. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER. Whole time. Fellow of Surveyors' Institute and holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

HEALTH VISITORS. Are appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council. They are fully qualified holding Nurses Certificates, etc.

FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS. Are also appointed and work under the direction of the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS. Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture.

MATRON OF THE NORTHERN ISOLATION HOSPITAL. Whole time. Fully trained in General and Fever Nursing.

Contribution is made by the Government to the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.

The Tuberculosis, School Medical, Maternity or Child Welfare and Venereal Diseases Schemes are all administered directly by the County Council. The County Council also appoint the Public Assistance District Medical Officers and the Public Vaccinators.

The Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring is also the Public Assistance District Medical Officer for the No. 52 district of the No. 10 (Houghton and Chester-le-Street) Guardian's Committee area (i.e. for the old parishes of Warden Law and Houghton-le-Spring), and acts as Medical Officer of the local Public Assistance Hospital, Institution and Cottage Homes.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—5013 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population—mid 1939—27,570.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books—7,917.

Rateable Value—£106,862.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£394.

Social Conditions and Chief Industries.

The chief industry in the district is coal mining and towards the end of 1940 trade in this became very slack. Unemployment formerly of considerable note in the area became very much less towards the end of the year as men and women became absorbed in war industries and enrolled on active service. The Registrar General's estimate of the general population for mid-year 1940 is 27,570, a reduction of 1,880 is apparently based on the assumption of approximately 2,000 persons having left the district for above occupations.

Vital Statistics.

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1940 was 461 as compared with 483 for 1939.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	439	227	212	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population 16.72
	{ Illegitimate	22	12	10	

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 14.6 for 1940.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births (2) the number of males born (3) the number of females born (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) for 1940 as compared with the years 1937—1939.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1937	571	274	297	18.19	210
1938	475	231	244	16.13	120
1939	483	250	233	16.38	161
1940	461	239	222	16.72	92

Still Births—During 1940 there were 17 still births in the district.

Still Births	Total			giving a Rate of 35.19 per 1000 total (live and still births) births
	Legitimate	Male	Female	
	17	10	6	1
	... 0	0	1	

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.62 in the district as compared with 0.55 for England and Wales.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 369 residents in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District died, being 190 males and 179 females.

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 13.38

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows :—

During 1940 there were 287 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 146 males and 141 females. Of these 9 males and 2 females did not normally reside in the area, therefore 137 males and 139 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 53 males and 40 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers, is 369, being 190 males and 179 females.

The death rate corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 13.38, the population at mid-year 1940 being estimated to be 27,750. That for 1939 was 11.39.

The Registrar-General has calculated the death rate for England and Wales with a view to age — sex distribution and supplies a factor for obtaining a "crude" death rate for the district that it may be more fairly compared with that for England and Wales. Such crude death rate in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District was 14.98 (using the locally corrected 13.38 death rate and a comparability factor of 1.12) as against 14.3 for England and Wales, and 13.44 for Houghton in 1939.

Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1940, 37 children died under the age of five years, as against 28 in 1939. Therefore 10 per cent of the total deaths was of deaths of children under 5 years of age, as against 8.7 per cent. in 1939

Deaths in Institutions.

Of the 93 residents who died outside the district, 1 died in a cinema, 1 in a private house and 4 outside. The remaining 87 died in Institutions, as follows:—

Sunderland Royal Infirmary	...	...	...	...	33
Durham County Mental Hospital, Sedgefield	...	...	...	...	11
Wolsingham Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	1
Sunderland Children's Hospital	...	...	...	...	5
R.D.C. Hospital and Sanatorium, Sunderland	...	...	...	...	1
Sunderland Municipal Hospital	...	...	...	...	1
Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle	...	...	...	...	1
Relton House, Chester-le-Street	...	...	...	...	18
City Mental Hospital, Newcastle	...	...	...	...	1
Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Sunderland	...	...	...	...	2
37, Crossgate, Durham	...	...	...	...	4
Oaklands, Bishop Auckland	...	...	...	...	3
Sherburn House Hospital, Sherburn	...	...	...	...	2
Leeholme, Easington	..	...	...	...	2
Helmington Row Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	1
1a, Clayton Road, Newcastle	...	...	...	...	1

8 residents in the district died in Heath House, and 2 in the Northern Isolation Hospital, therefore of the total 369 deaths of residents, 97 or 26.3 per cent. occurred in institutions.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list).

There was no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis but one from other puerperal causes, viz :

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 live births	Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	—	...	—
No. 30—			
Other Puerperal Causes	1	2.14	2.07
	—	—	—
Total	1	2.14	2.07

The following Comparative Figures are available for England and Wales :—

Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still)	
births from Puerperal Sepsis	0.52
Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still)	
births from Other Puerperal Causes	1.64
	—
Total	2.16

Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

27 children died during 1940 before attaining the age of 1 year, being 15 legitimate males, 10 legitimate females, 1 illegitimate male and 1 illegitimate female.

During 1939, 21 children died during this age period, none being illegitimate.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1937—1940 :—

	All Infants per 1000 live births	Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1937	77.1	78.0	50.0
1938	58.9	69.4	—
1939	43.5	45.1	—
1940	57.9	56.3	90.9

It will be noted from Table II. that the largest number of infantile deaths occurred in Houghton Ward, for 9 died in Houghton, 5 in Penshaw, 7 in Newbottle, 4 in Herrington and 2 in Fence Houses.

For the purpose of these and following statistics the population of the various wards has been taken as follows :—

Houghton	...	...	8408
Penshaw	...	...	6540
Newbottle	...	...	4672
Fence Houses	...	...	4396
Herrington	...	...	3554
Total			27570

The ratio of infantile deaths per 1000 population is :—

Houghton Ward	..	1.07
Penshaw Ward	...	0.76
Newbottle Ward	...	1.50
Fence Houses Ward	...	0.46
Herrington Ward	...	1.12

Of the 27 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was attributable to congenital malformation, prematurity and debility in 13 cases, giving a percentage of 48.1

The following table shows in detail the amount and causes of infantile deaths under one year of age during 1940, and also the number of deaths at the various ages, viz— 11 under one week, 1 between 2 and 3 weeks, 1 between 3 and 4 weeks, 2 between 4 weeks and 3 months, 8 between 3 months and 6 months and 4 between 6 months and 9 months, a total of 27.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 369, 7.3 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under one year of age. Of these under one year of age 40.7 per cent. were under one week and 48.1 per cent. under four weeks of age.

Infant Mortality during the year ended 31st December, 1940.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
	All Causes { Certified ...	11	...	1	1	13	2	8	4	...	27
{ Uncertified
Small-pox
Chicken pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Whooping cough
Diphtheria and Croup
Erysipelas
Tubercular Meningitis	1	...	...	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)
Convulsions
Laryngitis
Bronchitis	2	...	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	4
Diarrhoea
Enteritis	1	1	...	...	2
Gastritis	1	...	1
Syphilis
Rickets
Suffocation, overlying
Injury at Birth...
Atelectasis
Congenital Malformations	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth ...	8	...	1	...	9	...	...	...	...	9
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	1	...	1	...	...	2
Influenza
Other causes ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	4
	11	...	1	1	13	2	8	4	...	27

Nett Live Births— Legitimate.

Illegitimate

Males. Females.

Males. Females.

Corrected as per Registrar General ...

230

214

12

10

=

466

Nett Deaths—

15

11

0

0

=

27

Local Corrected Figures.

During 1940 there were 326 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners (eleven of the deceased so certified having post mortems performed on them). 2 deaths were certified by the Coroner after post mortem and inquest ; 27 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortem); and 14 were uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e. Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Houghton	38	33	27	27	125
Penshaw	20	16	24	16	76
Newbottle	26	17	9	10	62
Fence Houses	18	13	8	14	53
Herrington	20	16	6	11	53
Totals	122	95	74	78	369

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65-75 years.	75 years & over.	Total.
Houghton	9	3	2	1	2	13	33	29	33	125
Penshaw	5	...	1	2	5	5	15	25	18	76
Newbottle	7	1	...	3	1	6	20	15	9	62
Fence Houses	2	2	1	1	1	7	12	12	15	53
Herrington	4	...	...	...	2	5	21	16	5	53
Total	27	6	4	7	11	36	101	97	80	369

During the year under consideration there were 6 deaths from the chief zymotic diseases, giving a death rate per 1000 population, from this cause, of 0.21.

There was 1 death from "infantile" diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

In 1939 there was 1 death from the chief zymotic diseases being from "infantile" diarrhoea, equivalent to a death rate of 0.04 per 1000 population.

Comparative Table :

No. of Deaths in Houghton-le-Spring
Population 27,570.

Year	Death Rates in Houghton-le-Spring per 1000 population as compared with those for England and Wales.															
	All Causes		Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers		Smallpox		Measles		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Influenza	
	Ho.	E.-W.	Ho.	E.-W.	Ho.	E.-W.	Ho.	E.-W.	Ho.	E.-W.	Ho.	E.-W.	Ho.	E.-W.	Ho.	E.-W.
1938	355	14.22	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.07	0.27	0.11
1939	322	13.44	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.44	0.21
1940	369	14.98	14.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.47	0.32

Ho.—Houghton-le-Spring
E.-W.—England and Wales

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases for the year 1940, for England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London, 148 Smaller Towns including Houghton-le-Spring. (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000), compared with those for Houghton-le-Spring.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1940.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns).

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.	Houghton-le-Spring Urban District.
Rates per 1,000 Population.					
BIRTHS—					
Live	14.6	16.0	15.7	13.7	16.72
Still	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.44	0.62
DEATHS—					
All Causes	14.3	15.8	12.8	17.8	13.38
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.07
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.01	0.07
Influenza	0.32	0.29	0.30	0.18	0.47
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Measles	10.24	9.23	9.99	1.78	23.06
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.32	0.33	0.29	0.28	0.18
Whooping Cough	1.34	1.29	1.35	0.22	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.63	1.53	1.57	0.82	0.43
Diphtheria	1.16	1.29	1.21	0.61	1.52
Enteric fever	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.06	0.00
Erysipelas	0.33	0.36	0.30	0.35	0.65
Pneumonia	1.20	1.37	1.00	0.87	3.15
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	55	61	54	50	57.9
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age)	4.6	5.9	4.4	5.8	6.5
MATERNAL MORTALITY—					
Puerperal Sepsis					0.00
Others					2.14
Total					2.14
Rates per 1,000 Total Births(i.e. Live & Still)					
MATERNAL MORTALITY—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.52				
Others	1.64				2.07
Total	2.16				2.07
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Puerperal fever)	11.96	13.90	9.73	3.34	6.27
Puerperal pyrexia)				13.30	

Causes of Death.

(a) Tuberculosis.

There were 9 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1940, being equivalent to a death rate, per 1000 population, of 0.32 from pulmonary and 0.14 from non-pulmonary forms.

Comparative Table :

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring	No. of Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring
1937	12	.58	.41	2	.11	.06
1938	15	.53	.51	5	.16	.10
1939	11	Not available	.38	7	Not available	.24
1940	9	" "	.32	4	" "	.14

(b) Heart Disease.

Heart disease was, as in former years, the chief cause of death throughout the area. 112 persons, being 54 males and 58 females, were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 30.35 per cent. of the total deaths and to a mortality rate of 4.06 per 1000 population.

Comparative Table :

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease		Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease	
		M	F	All Causes	Heart Disease		
1937	361	97	50	47	12.24	3.29	26.87
1938	355	110	61	49	12.05	3.73	39.86
1939	322	91	43	48	13.44	3.19	28.26
1940	369	112	54	58	14.98	4.06	30.35

Rheumatism is one of the most common causes of heart disease and has always been fairly prevalent throughout the district. The vital importance of this should always be borne in mind and most particularly the necessity of medical treatment for even slight rheumatism in the young.

Cancer.

42 deaths being 21 each males and females were due to cancer. This is equivalent to a mortality rate of 1.52 per 1000 population or 11.3 per cent. of the total deaths.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to Cancer in Houghton-le-Spring and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1937—1940.

Year	Number of Deaths			Mortality Rate per 1000 pop
	Male	Female	Total	
1937	18	18	36	1.15
1938	21	20	41	1.44
1939	18	11	29	0.99
1940	21	21	42	1.52

Fear of operation and even a horror of diagnosis of cancer prevents a number of people from seeking medical advice early in the disease. Yet the efficacy of treatment, if given early, is steadily increasing. If all with any abnormality of health or unexplained swellings, particularly after the age of 45, would seek advice early many lives could be saved and much suffering avoided.

Treatment by radium is available at Sunderland Royal Infirmary whilst the large clinic for the North of England is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

Of the 42 deaths due to cancer 10 were due to cancer of the stomach (a site usually often attacked) and 7 to cancer of the lung—a very much larger figure than usual for this site.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1940 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

Site	Males—Ages	Females—Ages.
Stomach	67, 64, 77, 59, 51, 72, 65.	72, 65, 79.
Lung	57, 58, 25, 55.	41, 40, 65.
Bladder	63.	69.
Intestines	77, 66, 75, 68.	56.
Breast		46, 53, 36.
Uterus		57, 45, 41, 48, 55, 55.
Face	51.	
Prostate	66, 75, 74.	
Gall Bladder		71.
Kidney		46, 49.
Thyroid		75.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

See commencement of Report.

Development or changes in the following Services.

Laboratory Facilities.

As before.

Ambulance Facilities.

As before.

There appears to be sufficient facilities for the transport of patients suffering from ordinary sickness or accident and infectious diseases. The Council's ambulance service is satisfactorily augmented by the ambulances which are provided by the Colliery Company.

Nursing in the Home.

Maternity nursing is now done almost entirely by midwives appointed by the County Council.

Sickness and Accidents. These cases may be attended by District Nurses. There are three branches of the Nursing Association operating viz. : Philadelphia and District, Lumley and Fence Houses, and Houghton-le-Spring. The subscription is extremely small, a penny per week. The County Council subscribe to all local branches annually, and anyone who is normally in receipt of Public Assistance may, in case of illness, have the services of a nurse on the recommendation of a doctor.

Infectious Diseases. These are usually nursed by parents or relatives or removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital. In very exceptional circumstances the Council could make available the provision of trained nurses for home nursing of infectious diseases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There is no change in the services provided, all being maintained and administered by the County Council.

Hospitals — Public and Voluntary.

There is no change in the services provided.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

Bacteriological examinations of water have been made monthly throughout the year. The supply from Houghton Pit showed considerable variations but generally the results indicated that an abundant supply of wholesome water was available.

An arrangement was made with the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company to take water from them for the whole of the Houghton-le-Spring Supply area and work was commenced on the construction of a 6-in. diameter main from the Houghton Reservoirs to connect to a 12-in. dia. main which the Water Company was laying through Houghton-le-Spring. It was arranged that there should be three connections on the new 12-in. diameter main, one at the junction of Durham Road and Dairy Lane to supply Colliery Row and properties on the west of Newbottle Street, a second connection near the meter house, Sunderland Street, in order to by-pass the reservoirs if necessary, and the third to connect to the new 6-in. main referred to above.

A Sterilization Plant was ordered from the Paterson Engineering Company, and it is proposed to fix same on the Rising Main.

Closest Accommodation.

Four further conversions were carried out during the year, three in the Herrington Ward and one in Newbottle Ward.

The number of each type of convenience at the end of 1940 was as follows :

Water Closets	...	...	7898
Ash Closets	...	...	52
Privy Middens	...	..	14

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.

The Sewage Works under the Council's control continue to function satisfactorily. The North Biddick Sewage Disposal Works were opened on May 16th.

Two sewers, viz. at Lambton Terrace and Whitefield Pit, New Penshaw, were relaid.

Rivers and Streams.

On account of the war the scheme for culverting the Burn at Herrington was not proceeded with.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The conversion of the ashclosets to the water carriage system has resulted in the general use of galvanized iron ashbins for refuse. This necessitates collection of refuse twice weekly and facilitates the removal of same. There are nine motor vehicles employed on the work and these are equally housed at three depots situate at Houghton, Newbottle and Penshaw. The personnel engaged in this service consists of 23 men who come under the supervision of your sanitary inspector. The introduction of direct labour scavenging has resulted in the work of cleansing being more regularly and efficiently performed. The refuse is disposed of by depositing on tips which are under the control of the Local Authority.

The number of premises scavenged is 7,898, and the approximate cost 18/- per house per annum.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

The salvage of waste materials was commenced in March and in the month of August a special drive was organised. Very valuable assistance was given by the women's organizations in the district who undertook a house to house canvas and the distribution of leaflets. During the year approximately £460 was realized from the sale of waste materials.

Summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during
the year 1940.

I. Public Health Acts.				Number of informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses	}	Foul Conditions	4	...	4	
and		Structural Defects	86	22	42	
Schools		Overcrowding	20	...	6	
Lodging-houses	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	10	...	10
Cowsheds	...	...	6	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	2	2	2
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies...	...	...	72	6	70
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	...	...	...
Waterclosets	...	...	98	...	98
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	4	...	4
House	}	Defective Traps ...	34	2	34	
Drainage		No disconnection from sewers	...	...	...
		Other Faults	82	4	82	
Water Supply	...	...	30	...	30
Pigsties ...	...	...	2	...	2
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances	...	...	8	...	8
TOTALS	...	...	458	36	398

II.—Water, Food, and Drugs.	Number	Remarks.
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	12	
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ... ..	...
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	8 Tons	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ... ..	...
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	20	Milk
Samples found Adulterated ... ..	...
III.—Precautions against Infectious Disease.		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	89	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	112	
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ... ..	...
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ... ..	...
IV.—General.		
Number of New Houses erected during year	48	
Number of such Houses occupied during year	48	
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ...	...
Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets	...	
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets ...	6	
Total number of Water-closets in District..	7898	
Total number of Ash-closets in District	52	
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District...	14	

Shops Acts.

During the winter period the usual closing hours were curtailed. This resulted in considerable benefit to the shop assistants and without detriment to the shop keepers.

Camping Sites.

This area is in the centre of the coal mining industry and there are no sites used for camping. An annual "Fair" of four days duration is provided by travelling showmen, for whom sanitary arrangements are provided.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

During the year action was taken in respect of a caravan at Chilton Moor and there are now none inhabited in the area.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools was found to be satisfactory.

It has never been necessary to request that a school should be closed on account of infectious disease. Speaking generally, infectious cases have occurred scattered throughout the district and entirely without evidence of mass infection.

Cinemas.

Cinemas and places of public entertainment were inspected during the year and certificates issued as to their sanitary condition.

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

The work is undertaken by the Sanitary Inspectors in co-operation with either tenant or owner. In the case of properties situate in Clearance Areas the premises are visited before rehousing takes place, and if infestation is present the premises and furniture are fumigated. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the tenants carry out the Inspector's instructions as much depends on the efforts of the tenants themselves.

		Infested		Disinfested
Number of Council Houses	...	16	...	16
Number of Other Houses	...	20	...	20

Rat Infestation.

Several complaints were received of rat infested houses. There is a definite tendency to exaggeration in these cases. Complaints are investigated by your Inspectors, advice given and if necessary the circumstances are reported to the County Officer. During the year 16 cases were investigated.

Housing (Rural Workers' Act) 1936.

During the year improvements were completed in respect of one house situate in the Herrington Ward.

Housing Conditions.

Housing Statistics for the year 1940.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :	
(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	475
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	550
(2)(a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932	282
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	348
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of Dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	193
2 Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	166
3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	3
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	26
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	20
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

Council Houses.

Statement of Progress.

SITE	No. of houses erected prior to 1940	No. of houses erected during 1940	No. of houses in course of erection at 31st Dec., 1940	Total
Newtown ...	82	...	...	82
North Rectory ...	60	...	...	60
Villa No. 1 and 2 ...	176	...	...	176
Chilton Moor ...	148	...	...	148
Colliery Row ...	64	...	...	64
Hetton Road ...	308	...	...	308
Hall Lane ...	65	...	...	65
Race Course ...	52	32	...	84
Grange Estate ...	88	...	...	88
Sedgeleth ...	20	8	...	28
Hillside... ...	72	...	...	72
Homelands ...	170	...	...	170
St. Aidan's ...	108	...	...	108
Park Estate ...	268	...	...	268
Station Road ...	56	...	...	56
Chandler Row ...	9	...	...	9
Chester Road Estate ...	198	8	...	206
New Penshaw ...	30	...	...	30
Penshaw Hill ...	72	...	...	72
	2046	48	—	2094

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Samples of milk have been regularly submitted to King's College for bacteriological examination. These include samples taken from the milk supplied to schools and imported milk usually sold on Sundays.

In cases where the reports were unsatisfactory the dairy methods were kept under close observation, and the dairymen were advised by the Sanitary Inspector. In all cases very considerable improvement were effected. The producers and retailers have always been ready to co-operate with the Health Department in their efforts to secure a clean wholesome milk supply, and I wish to express my appreciation of their help.

A new byre was provided at North Farm, Newbottle.

The number of registered cowkeepers and dairymen in the district is 32. Of these 6 are producers of Tuberculin Tested (Certified) or "Accredited" Milk. Most of the milk supply is obtained in the immediate locality where the dairy herds are of a very high standard.

Slaughter-Houses.

There are 15 licensed slaughter-houses in the district and 32 shops for the sale of meat.

These premises are regularly inspected and the general standard of cleanliness is good.

During the year slaughtering has been carried out at the Central Slaughter House, Newbottle.

Central Slaughter House.

The premises of the Co-operative Society Ltd. situate at Newbottle, were taken over by the Ministry of Food and all animals slaughtered there have been examined by your inspectors. The following are details of the animals slaughtered during the year.

Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
1822	193	142	10604	1565

making a total of 14326 all of which were inspected.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	1822	193	142	10604	1565
Number inspected ...	1822	193	142	10604	1565
All diseases except T.B.—					
Whole carcasses condemned...	1	2	9	13	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	102	26	—	20	21
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than T B. ...	5.6	14.5	6.3	0.3	1.9
T.B. only —					
Whole carcasses condemned...	3	5	—	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	85	20	—	—	35
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with T.B. ...	4.4	13.0	—	—	2.4

Shellfish.

There are no beds in the district.

Bakehouses.

Inspections revealed that the general standard of cleanliness was satisfactory.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following are the principal places within your district.

1. Philadelphia Engine Works and Repairing Shops.
2. Philadelphia Joinery Works.
3. Durham Collieries Electrical Power Station.
4. Sunderland & District Omnibus Co.
5. Co-operative Stores and Workshops.
6. Gas Works.
7. Joinery Works.
8. Boring Tool Works.
9. Printing.
10. Builders Merchants
11. Candle Making
12. Bakeries
13. Sugar Confectioners

During the year these have been inspected and any nuisances or defects found were remedied without the necessity for formal action.

1—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	22	...	...
Factories without mechanical power...	46	3	...
†Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises)	...	...	...
†Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. Total	68	3	...

2—Defects found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	1	1	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	...	...	...	...
Ineff'ctive drainage of floors (S6)	...	...	...	...
Sanitary conveniences (S7) :—				
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	..	...	...
Other offences ...	...	...	...	...
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total ...	3	3	...	...

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During 1940 some 844 cases of infectious diseases (including all forms of Tuberculosis) were notified, an increase of 654 compared with the number of cases notified during 1939. It must be observed however that measles and whooping cough first became notifiable in October, 1939, when these diseases were not epidemic, only 4 cases of measles and 6 of whooping cough being notified during the remaining period of 1939 compared with 636 cases of measles and 3 of whooping cough during the year 1940. In other words excluding measles and whooping cough there was an increase of 25 cases of other infectious diseases.

Scarlet Fever.

12 cases were notified as against 26 in 1939 and of these 9 were isolated in hospital.

For reasons applicable in previous years—impracticability of providing a sick person with a room entirely to himself or herself, most cases require to be nursed in hospital and experience has shown that return cases are practically non-existent after six weeks' isolation although more often occurring when isolation is shortened.

Three cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified but without any relationship to cases of Scarlet Fever or sore throat without rash.

The case incidence was 0.43 per 1000 population, that for England and Wales being 1.63 per 1000 civilian population.

The case incidence for the various Wards was : Houghton 0.24, Penshaw 0.31, Newbottle 0.43, Fence Houses 0.91, and Herington 0.56.

Diphtheria.

There were 42 cases of diphtheria in the district during 1940 as compared with 19 cases in 1939. Of these 41 cases were removed to hospital in addition to a number of cases which were suspected of having diphtheria and were later proved to be non-diphtheric.

It is with pleasure that we would point out that only 2 deaths occurred in the district from this cause. This is partly due to

prompt administration of anti-toxin by practitioners when suspecting diphtheria and they are reminded that this anti-toxin is available by day or night at the Northern Isolation Hospital, or during office hours at the Public Health Department, Newbottle Street, Houghton.

The incidence of diphtheria in the district was 1.52 compared with 1.16 for England and Wales.

The case incidence in the Wards was Houghton 1.19, Penshaw 2.44, Newbottle 0.64, Fence Houses 0.45, Herrington 3.09.

Immunisation.

Of the 42 cases of diphtheria 2 had been previously immunised. Very few requests were received during the year for immunisation of children, but whenever this was asked for the children were duly treated.

Influenza and Pneumonia.

There was a slight epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year, fortunately, on the whole, of a mild character. 13 deaths were ascribed to this during 1940 as against 11 in 1939 and 8 in 1938.

There were 14 deaths ascribed as being due to pneumonia (some influenzal pneumonia) as against 19 in 1939, but the number of cases of pneumonia notified were 87 as against 80 in 1939, and 85 in 1938.

Measles, Whooping Cough and Erysipelas.

During 1940 measles became epidemic throughout the district (as also throughout most of the county). This led to the large increase in notifications already mentioned. Whilst there may be some advantage in measles and whooping cough being generally notifiable in reception areas it is not of any real value in the control of these diseases throughout the country. It would appear to greatly increase the work of the staff of the Health Department without any adequate return in control. Some 500 visits have been made by your Sanitary Inspectors to these cases during the year.

During the year no deaths were ascribed to whooping cough and two to measles.

For reasons previously explained no action was taken in the district for the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There were 18 cases of erysipelas notified during 1940, as against 13 in 1939.

School Notification of Disease.

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1940.

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1940.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	12	9	—
Diphtheria	42	41	2
Enteric Fever (includ. Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—
Erysipelas	18	—	—
Pneumonia	87	—	14
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Measles	636	—	2
Whooping Cough	3	—	—
TOTALS	801	50	18

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.:— the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.

Case Rates for Infectious Diseases — Notifications per 1,000 population.
 Figures for England and Wales, 148 Smaller Towns are Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns. Those for Houghton Urban District are corrected.

Disease	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	Houghton Urban District	Case Rates in Wards					
				Houghton	Penshaw	Newbottle	Fence Houses	Herrington	
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.57	0.43	0.24	0.31	0.43	0.91	0.56	
Diphtheria	1.16	1.21	1.52	1.19	2.44	0.64	0.45	3.09	
Enteric Fever	0.07	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Erysipelas	0.33	0.30	0.65	0.83	0.46	0.64	1.13	0.00	
Pneumonia	1.20	1.00	3.15	1.78	3.21	3.42	4.09	4.78	
Measles	10.24	9.99	23.06	29.49	25.23	21.17	12.97	18.85	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.32	0.29	0.18	0.12	0.15	0.21	0.56	0.00	
Whooping Cough	0.00	1.35	0.11	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.00	

Prevention of Blindness.

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

Tuberculosis.

There has been no action taken during 1940 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

11 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 4 males and 7 females were notified or came to notice during the year, also 24 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, being 11 males and 13 females. In 1939 there were 22 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 12 males and 10 females, and 12 cases of non-pulmonary forms, being 4 males and 8 females notified.

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis notified in 1940 according to sex and ward.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Houghton ...	2	2	3	6	13
Penshaw ...	2	1	1	2	6
Newbottle ...	—	2	3	2	9
Fence Houses...	—	2	2	1	5
Herrington ...	—	—	2	—	2
Totals ...	4	7	11	13	35

The following table shows the various age-periods, for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1 year ..	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
5 years ..	—	1	4	6	—	—	—	—
15 years ..	1	3	3	3	1	2	—	1
25 years ..	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	—
35 years ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 years ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS ..	4	7	11	13	5	4	2	2

The figures in the Death columns are from locally compiled records.

Occupation.

In the case of pulmonary tuberculosis :

4 were housewives, 3 were miners, 2 were domestics, 1 was at school, and 1 in the army.

In the case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis :

2 were housewives, 10 were at school, 3 were miners, 1 was a domestic, 3 were shop assistants, 1 was a painter, 1 a clerk and 3 were under school age.

Site of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases.

—16 cervical glands, 1 abdomen, 1 hip, 1 leg, 1 meninges, 2 mesenteric glands, 1 perineum and 1 urinary tract.

Social Conditions of Patients Suffering from Tuberculosis.

Nearly 60% of the patients suffering from tuberculosis share their rooms with one or more persons, the majority also sharing the bed. This is definitely undesirable in cases of pulmonary tuberculosis or where there are discharging wounds and this should always be borne in mind in allocating houses. Financially the family income is that of the average working man in the district, but in a long drawn out illness such as tuberculosis the extras necessary for the patient frequently negatives the ability to pay rent for a larger house.

This is probably one reason why names of families with a patient suffering from tuberculosis are rarely found on the application forms for council houses.

Notification of Tuberculosis.

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patient or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment. There were four deaths from tuberculosis during the year which had not been notified, which I believe were not notified because the doctor in attendance was waiting to make sure of the diagnosis first, but death intervened.

Examination of Sputa.

Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.



