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Keswick
Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,
Charles A. Mason, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1953.

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspector.



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KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1953, which has been drawn up in accordance with Ministry of Health instructions in the usual way. This is my last annual report in the service of the Keswick Urban District Council and I would like, sincerely, to thank Councillors and Staff alike for the courtesy and friendliness shown to me during my term of office and to say in entering retirement, I do so with particularly happy memories.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MASON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres), 1,272.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid 1953) 4,740
(see page 4).

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953), according to rate books,
1585.

Rateable Value, £37,988.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £151 5s. 5d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total M. F.			
Live Births	Legitimate	41	27	14	
	Illegitimate	2	0	2	Live Birth Rate (R.-G.) 9.0 per 1,000 of the population.
Still births		1	1	0	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births, 22.7

		Total		M.	F.	
Deaths		52	28	24		Crude Death Rate (R.G.) 10.9
per 1,000 of estimated resident population.						

Maternal Mortality :—

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Childbirth) :

		Deaths.		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
Puerperal Sepsis	0	nil.
Other Puerperal Causes	0	nil.
Total	0	nil.

Infantile Mortality :—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age 1

Death Rate „ „ „ (approx.) :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 23

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 24

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

„ Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

„ Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea 0

„ Cancer 8

KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

The area of the district in statute acres (land and inland water) is 1,272.

Social conditions and local industries remain as hitherto.

The Urban District of Keswick is included in the Lake District National Park (which was designated as such by the Parks Commissioners, January, 1951, and confirmed by the Minister concerned, May, 1951).

Meteorological Conditions :—These are shown in a report by Mr. Tom Wilson, Official Observer to the Meteorological Office and Air Ministry, and given at the end of this report.

POPULATION.

The population figure of 4 740 is given for the year 1953 by the Registrar-General and called by him the "Home Population" (i.e.—as in 1952)—including members of the armed forces stationed in the area); on this figure the birth and death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases are based.

N.B.—The population figure for 1952 was 4,660.

VITAL STATISTICS—BIRTHS.

LIVE-BIRTHS—There were 43 Live Births (27 males and 16 females) registered as belonging to the district; of these 2 (both females) were illegitimate.

The Live Birth Rate was accordingly 9.0 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 52 births and a rate of 11.1 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Birth Rates, 1953—Cumberland	...	...	...	16.7
Rural Districts of Cumberland				16.2
Urban Districts of Cumberland				17.5
England and Wales	...	...		15.5
Keswick Urban District	...			9.0

The 2 illegitimate births make the percentage of Illegitimate Live Births 4.6, as compared with 2 illegitimate births, with a percentage of 3.8 in 1952.

As regards Births and Deaths the Registrar-General has supplied Area Comparability Factors—these allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas and are used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas. The factor for births is 1.00, the birth rate, therefore, remaining at 9.0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1953.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Male.	Female.
ALL CAUSES					28	24
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	1	...
2.	Tuberculosis, Other	...	...	...	...	...
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
6.	Meningo-coccal infections	...	...	...	...	...
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	...
11.	„ „ lung, bronchus	...	...	...	1	...
12.	„ „ breast	...	...	...	...	...
13.	„ „ uterus	...	...	...	...	...
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	2	1
15.	Leukoemia, aleukoemia	...	...	...	...	...
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	1	7
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	5	1
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	2	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	6	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	2	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	...
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	...
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	1	2
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	3	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—Total					...	1
Legitimate					...	1
Illegitimate					—	—

					Males	Females
LIVE BIRTHS	}	TOTAL ...	...	...	27	16
		Legitimate ...	...	...	27	14
		Illegitimate ...	...	...	—	2
STILL BIRTHS	}	TOTAL ...	...	...	1	—
		Legitimate ...	...	...	1	—
		Illegitimate ...	...	...	—	—
POPULATION (for Births and Deaths)—1953—R.G. ...						4,740

STILL BIRTHS—One still birth was registered, so that the Still Birth Rate, therefore, was 0.85 per 1,000 of the population as compared with four still births with a rate of 0.85 in 1952. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.35).

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births was 22.7 as compared with 71.4 in 1952.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered as belonging to Keswick was 52 (1952—68). This gives a crude death rate of 10.9 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 14.5 for the previous year.

The comparability factor given for adjusting the crude death rate (for the reasons explained under Births) is 0.79. The adjusted death rate for Keswick Urban District was, therefore, 8.6.

Comparisons of crude and adjusted death rates are shown below:

					Crude	Adjusted
Death Rates, 1953 :						
Cumberland ...	...	...	...	...	11.9	—
Rural Districts of Cumberland ...	...	...	...	...	11.9	—
Urban Districts of Cumberland ...	...	...	...	...	11.8	—
England and Wales ...	...	...	...	...	11.4	—
Keswick Urban District ...	...	...	...	...	10.9	8.6

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

One death (attributed to Asphyxia Pallida) occurred among infants under one year of age, so that the Infantile Mortality Rate was 23.2 per 1,000 births, as compared with 19.2 in 1952.

No illegitimate infant death occurred, so that the illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births, therefore, was nil as compared with the one legitimate infant death, making the Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate births, approximately 24.

These latter rates were both nil and 19 respectively, for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1953 :—

Cumberland ...	(approximately)	...	27
Rural Districts of Cumberland ...	...	...	24
Urban Districts of Cumberland ...	...	...	30
England Wales ...	...	...	26.8
Keswick Urban District ...	...	...	23

SENILE DEATH RATE.

30 persons had attained the age of 65 years or upwards. This number represents a Senile Death Rate of 57.6 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 73.5 for 1952.

Out of the 65 deaths :—

4 (3m. 1f.)	persons died between the ages	of 65 and 70 years
10 (4m. 6f.)	" " " " "	70 and 75 years
7 (4m. 3f.)	" " " " "	75 and 80 years
4 (2m. 2f.)	" " " " "	80 and 85 years
3 (f.)	" " " " "	85 and 90 years
2 (f.)	" " " " "	at 92 and 99 years of age respectively.

INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND VIOLENCE.

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year, there were four inquests.

There were two "Uncertified" deaths.

One Coroner's certificate was received of a case where a post-mortem examination had been made, but no inquest held.

VIOLENCE :—The death rate due to Violence (all forms) was 0.84 per 1,000 of the population in the Keswick Urban District. Below will be seen the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accidents, Other Violence and the Total Violence Deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates from each per 1,000 of the population, as compared with the previous year.

	Suicide		Road Traffic Acc.		Other Violence excluding Road Traffic Acc.		Total Violence	
	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952
Deaths	nil	nil	nil	1	4	2	4	2
% of all causes ..	nil	nil	nil	1.47	7.69	2.94	7.69	4.41
Death Rate per 1,000 population ..	nil	nil	nil	.21	.84	.42	.84	.64

The four violence deaths during the year were : Three head injuries including 2 fracture of skull (1 from fall on highway, 1 from fall from ladder) and 1 with Cerebral Thrombosis; one fracture of Femur (from fall in house).

CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 6 cases as follows :—

System	Primary Organ	Ma'es	Females	Years
Alimentary	Stomach	2	—	64, 68
	Rectum	2	—	63, 79
Respiratory	Bronchus	1	—	62
Other ... ..	...	1	—	33

This number corresponds to a cancer death rate of 1.28 per 1 000 of the population, as compared with 8 deaths and a rate of 1.7 in 1952.

Approximately out of every 9 deaths of persons belonging to this district 1 was due to cancer (last year 1 in 8).

TUBERCULOSIS.

(Vide also page 14).

There was one death attributed to Tuberculosis :—

				Males	Females
Respiratory System	...	...	...	1	0
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	0	0

The Tuberculosis (all forms) death rate, therefore, was .21 per 1,000 of the population compared with nil in 1952.

This can also be said for the death rate for Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

IN THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.
2. One Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ralph Lusher, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., being also the Surveyor and Water Engineer.

Mr. R. Cain was still assistant in the Surveyor's Office.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council is the Authority responsible for this important public service, taking over in 1948. Under their comprehensive Ambulance Scheme for Cumberland, adequate provision has been made for this district.

Speaking generally, other particulars relating to Health Services (e.g., Hospitals, Nursing, Maternity, etc.) remain more or less unchanged.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The yield from the various supplies continued to be adequate at all times.

Chlorination was continued during the year but great difficulty is experienced in obtaining plant which will deal effectively with the varying yield from the springs and ghylls and also with the varying chlorine demand of the water. (At the time of writing this report the Council have approved a proposal made by the Surveyor for the improvement of chlorinating facilities). Twelve samples of water were submitted for analysis during the year, nine of these were re-regarded by the analyst as highly satisfactory and three were unsatisfactory.

The water is soft in character and lead pipes are not used owing to the liability of plumbo solvency. Copper service pipes are used throughout the district.

With the exception of 8 houses at High Briery, where there is a standpipe, all premises have a piped supply.

A number of new watermains were laid in various parts of the district at a cost of £3,000. These mains for the most part consisted of a replacement of existing mains which were furred up and obsolete.

Approximately 140 new services to individual houses were also laid during the year.

A new screen chamber house was built at the Underscar Reservoir and is a great improvement on the previous chamber which was below ground level and allowed access of surface water and leaves, etc., during times of heavy rain. In the new screen chamber the water passes through one coarse screen and two fine screens and the whole chamber is designed so that it can be easily cleansed without risk of the contamination of the water.

Concrete-lined spun-iron pipes are used when new mains are laid, in order that incrustation may be prevented. This policy over the past twenty-one years has given much satisfaction; the water, of course, is not affected.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No major extension of the sewerage system was carried out.

As pointed out in my last annual report the sedimentation tanks and filters at the Outfall Works are inadequate to treat properly the amount of sewage passing through and the difficulty of sludge disposal continues.

After consideration of a report by the Sanitary Inspector the Council asked for the preparation of plans and estimates for new sludge drying beds at the Sewage Works. At the present time there are only two very inadequate sludge drying beds which have no means of underdrainage. These beds are far too small for requirements and the sludge has to be discharged on to adjoining fields which are not in the Council's ownership.

The new scheme will provide for the construction of six covered sludge beds which should provide ample drying space for the sludge at these works.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

Two Karrier Bantam refuse wagons are employed, but one of these is used part time on other work. Very few complaints are received and this service is generally satisfactory.

The method of disposal of refuse by crude tipping continued to be unsatisfactory but at the time of writing this report a scheme for the improvement and extension of the refuse tip submitted by the Sanitary Inspector has been accepted by the Council and it is confidently expected that the refuse tip will be reorganised and greatly improved as soon as this scheme can be commenced.

Salvage of waste paper was continued and just over 49 tons of paper was baled and sold to the paper mills at Langwathby for £370 approximately.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

I would hereby gratefully acknowledge the invaluable assistance given to me by Mr. Ralph Lusher, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, in the making of this report and record my appreciation of his willing co-operation at all times. I know he has a lot on his plate but I am sure he is on right lines and is a credit to the Council in his varied work for the district. His summary under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, will be seen below.

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article XIX of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.

Premises inspected during the year	...	...	...	...	167
Nuisances or defects discovered	...	...	...	...	46
Do.	do.	remedied after informal notice	...	...	46
Do.	do.	do.	after statutory notice	...	0
Housing Inspections under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	120
Factory Inspections	...	...	...	...	25

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

A total of 30 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector, and the 4 defects revealed were all remedied by informal action. The following table shows the position in this district at the end of 1953 :

Premises.	Number	Inspections	Defects Found	Written Notices	Defects Remedied	Prosecutions.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	17	12	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	43	18	4	1	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	..	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..	60	30	4	1	1

(Section 1 refers to Cleanliness, 2 to Overcrowding, 3 Temperature, 4 Ventilation, 6 Drainage of Floors, and 7 Sanitary Conveniences).

The above figures include 7 bakehouses.

Outworkers—Nil.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Periodical Inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector. No action was taken during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

This Act came into force on 31st March, 1950, and superceded the Rats and Mice Destruction Act. Under the new Act full responsibility devolves upon the Council as far as the Urban area is concerned.

The Council employees undertake treatment as recommended. The sewers were treated several times during the year and the refuse tip was treated 12 times; treatments were also carried out at 21 private houses and 7 business premises.

HOUSING.

Ten new Council houses were completed and occupied on the new housing site at Latrigg Close, formerly known as Browfoot. Roads, Sewers and watermains were also partially completed for the whole of the site. A further contract for 41 houses was let in November, 1953, and work is now proceeding on these houses.

The total number of Council houses now completed since the war is 112.

Six Private Enterprise houses were completed and occupied during 1953, bringing the total of new private houses completed since the war to 48.

The new Housing Repairs and Rents Bill was published and it is hoped this new legislation will help landlords to meet the cost of repairs and so arrest the decay of many houses, which are at present suffering badly from a lack of proper maintenance.

HOUSING APPENDIX.

STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	75
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	109
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above (which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932) ...	0
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	0
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-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	0

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 ...	62
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

There were fourteen registered milk sellers, six of these being producers and retailers, whose premises were in the Urban District. Inspections continued to be made periodically.

A large quantity of the town's milk supply is retailed by producers whose premises are situated in the surrounding Rural District. There were 6 of such producer-retailers during 1953.

Three samples of milk retailed in the town were taken during 1953 by the Sanitary Inspector and submitted for laboratory examination (Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle), for the presence of Tubercle Baccilli; all three samples proved negative to Tubercle.

Four licences have been issued for the selling of Designated Milk in the Keswick Urban District.

On a sample of milk being reported as tubercular, investigation is made by veterinary officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

I am indebted to Mr. J. K. S. Elmslie, Divisional Inspector for that Authority, for the following return—a "nil" one—of particulars of animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, from premises registered in the Keswick Urban District during the year 1953 :—

Total number of animals slaughtered	...	...	...	0
Cows in milk	...	...	...	0
Other cows or heifers	...	...	...	0
Other bovine	...	...	...	0
Types of Disease found at post mortem :—				
Tuberculosis of udder	...	...	...	0
" with emaciation	...	...	...	0
" with chronic cough and showing definite clinical signs	...	...	...	0

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES—The regular use of the two licensed Slaughter-Houses by the Ministry of Food ended on 12th August, 1950. After this date, dead meat was transported here from Maryport abattoir.

The following is a brief summary of foodstuffs for which 77 certificates of unsoundness were issued by the Sanitary Inspector:—

56 lbs. of butter, 43 lbs., 4 oz. bacon, 168 lbs. frozen egg, 36 fish-cakes, 203 lbs. 9 oz. of cooked ham and 242 tins of meat and various foods (including vegetables and fruit). These foodstuffs were removed by the refuse collectors and buried at the refuse tip.

BAKEHOUSES—There are 7 in existence. As usual all these premises were periodically inspected. One informal notice requiring lime-washing was readily complied with.

ICE-CREAM—Registered premises for manufacture or sale	...	32
" " " sale only	...	24
Number of Inspections	...	18

FOOD (Preparation and Manufacture) Premises

Registered Premises for the preparation and manufacture of foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES—The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1953 in the Keswick Urban District, including Pulmonary and Other Forms of Tuberculosis was 69. Excluding Measles and Whooping Cough (*vide post*) the number was 4 (1952—10).

Two of the notifications were of Tuberculosis.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1953.

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases notified 1953 admitted to Hospital	Deaths of cases notified in 1953
Measles (Ages : Under 1 yr., 1; 1-2 yrs., 3; 2-3 yrs., 7; 3-4 yrs. 9; 4-5 yrs., 13; 5-10 yrs., 30).	63	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1 (Age—17 yrs.)	1	0
Whooping Cough	2 (Ages—1 & 5 yrs.)	0	0
Polio-myelitis (unconfirmed)	1 (Age—6 yrs.)	1	0
Tuberculosis :—			
Pulmonary			
Males	0	0 (San. or Hosp.)	0
Females	1	1 " "	0
Non-Pulmonary			
Males	0	0 " "	0
Females	1	1 " "	0

Table showing monthly incidence of Notifiable Diseases, 1953 :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever ..			1										1
Measles ..	27	36											63
Whooping Cough												2	2
Polio-myelitis (unconfirmed) ..								1					1
Tuberculosis :													
Pulmonary ..									1				1
Other Forms ..							1						1

From notifications received it is deduced that approximately one in every 1,185 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act (Chicken-pox, Measles and Whooping Cough excluded) and the Tuberculosis Regulations. (Last year's figure, 1 in 466 and in 1928 it was 1 in 177).

SCARLET FEVER—There was only 1 case of Scarlet Fever notified (in February) and removed to hospital with ensuing recovery. The case rate and death were respectively .21 and nil per 1,000 of the population (similarly, England and Wales, 1953—139 and 0.00).

DIPHTHERIA—There were again no notifications of Diphtheria; the case rates and death rates, therefore, respectively, were nil, these rates for England and Wales (1953) being 0.01 and 0.00.

The immunisation campaign against Diphtheria was continued as before (and entailing a considerable amount of unseen work). Most of the inoculations were given officially, by me, at the Crosthwaite Parish Room after advertising, etc., as previously. It is again encouraging to report that the number both of primary (two injections) inoculations and re-inforcing doses exceeded that of the previous year.

During the year under review 3 elementary school children, 5 to 14 years, and 56 infants under 5 years were known to have been given primary injections (two at intervals of a few weeks), either by me or by their own private doctors.

131 children received a single re-inforcing dose (these are children who received the two primary doses 4 to 5 years previously).

The co-operation of the local medical practitioners, head teachers, the District Nurses and, particularly, that of the County Health Visitor, Miss Horn, is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

It is considered essential to reiterate that sustained effort must continue to be made by all concerned to achieve the level of immunisation necessary among children generally and particularly in regard to infants under one year of age in the 0 to 5 years group.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA—No notifications received again; the case rate for this disease (including Puerperal Fever) was, therefore, nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births registered during the year, the same as 1952. The corresponding rate (1953) for England and Wales was 18.23.

Again no maternal death occurred—corresponding, therefore, to a Maternity Mortality Rate of nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births, the same as in 1952.

PNEUMONIA—No notification was received; no death was registered from Pneumonia (all forms).

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS—One notification was received in April, that of a child of 6 years and removed to hospital (Carlisle), but the case was unconfirmed.

There were again no notifications of Cerebo-Spinal Meningitis and, similar to the previous year, there were none of Typhoid (including Para-Typhoid) Fever, Encephalitis Lethargica, or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

TUBERCULOSIS—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1 case (female) of Pulmonary was notified, belonging to an outside district, and 1 (female) of Other Forms of Tuberculosis. The former was admitted to Sanatorium as was a previously notified (f.) case.

The Regional Hospital Board's Mass Radiography travelling "Unit" were in Keswick doing their 2nd annual survey in May. A total of 993 miniature films were taken of persons of 15 years of age and upwards. No newly discovered active, but 12 inactive primary cases were reported.

The following table gives the number of New Cases and Mortality (all cases) during 1953 :—

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year
1—5
5—10
10—15
15—20
20—25
25—35	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
35—45	1	..	..	..
45—55	1	..	..	..	..
55—65
65 and upwards
Totals ..	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 2.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1953 was as follows :—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ...	15	10	25
Non-Pulmonary ...	4	4	8
All Cases ...	19	14	33

No action has been required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relates to powers regarding persons suffering from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory Tract, and in an infectious state and employed in connection with a dairy or the handling of milk or milk vessels.

With reference to the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, regarding compulsory removal to hospital or institution, no action has been taken.

NON-NOTIFIABLE ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Epidemics usually occur in conjunction with epidemics in the districts adjoining.

Influenza was prevalent only in mild degree during the year under review, and no death was attributed to this disease, so that the influenza death rate was Nil per 1,000 of the population, the same as in 1952. (The rate, 1953, for England and Wales, was 0.16).

Re Measles and Whooping Cough (which became notifiable as from 1st November, 1939)—There were 63 cases of Measles notified and 2 of Whooping Cough.

The case rates of Measles and Whooping Cough (as per notification) were, therefore, 13.2 and .42 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 12.36 and 3.58, respectively, for all England and Wales, 1953.

No death occurred from either Measles or Whooping Cough (as in the previous year), the death rates were, therefore, again nil per 1,000 of the population respectively, as compared with 0.01 and 0.00 for England and Wales, 1953.

There were no school closures due to epidemic diseases during the year.

METEOROLOGICAL STATION.

Height above sea level, 254 ft. Lat. 54°36'N. Long. 3°9'W.

RETURNS FOR 1953.

Month	RAINFALL		SUNSHINE	
	Amount Ins. Days	Average 51 years	Amount Hrs. Days	Average 51 years
January ..	2.32 on 17 ..	6.23 ..	27.4 on 11 ..	33.8
February ..	1.96 „ 17 ..	4.51 ..	45.5 „ 17 ..	53.5
March ..	.79 „ 6 ..	3.81 ..	157.4 „ 29 ..	101.0
April ..	3.82 „ 14 ..	3.28 ..	161.3 „ 28 ..	132.1
May ..	2.49 „ 13 ..	3.16 ..	209.6 „ 29 ..	180.7
June ..	1.67 „ 14 ..	3.17 ..	157.3 „ 22 ..	180.2
July ..	6.49 „ 26 ..	4.18 ..	125.5 „ 28 ..	154.3
August ..	5.93 „ 21 ..	5.24 ..	134.0 „ 25 ..	137.6
September ..	8.95 „ 15 ..	5.10 ..	92.1 „ 21 ..	116.8
October ..	3.35 „ 14 ..	5.97 ..	102.3 „ 24 ..	79.1
November ..	10.05 „ 25 ..	5.65 ..	23.5 „ 15 ..	46.3
December ..	3.62 „ 14 ..	6.45 ..	36.9 „ 16 ..	27.8

Totals .. 51.44 „ 196

1272.8 „ 265

Average Annual Rainfall, 51 years, 57.39

Average Annual Sunshine Hours, 51 years, 1,244.2

TEMPERATURES.

Highest Maximum (in screen)	Lowest Minimum (in screen)	Lowest Minimum (on grass)	Ave. Daily Temp.	Nights Frost	Wind at Gale Force	Snow Lying
53.0 on 28th ..	21.0 on 5th ..	16.0 on 5th ..	39.5	15	—	—
60.0 „ 27th ..	23.0 „ 8th ..	17.0 „ 4th ..	41.5	14	—	4
66.0 „ 21, 24 ..	23.0 „ 6th ..	17.0 „ 6th ..	44.3	20	—	—
66.0 „ 22nd ..	29.0 „ 10, 15 ..	19.0 „ 10, 15 ..	44.0	15	—	—
75.0 „ 25th ..	36.0 „ 1st ..	25.0 „ 1st ..	53.6	2	—	—
82.0 „ 25th ..	41.0 „ 2nd ..	36.0 „ 2nd ..	58.2	—	—	—
81.0 „ 1st ..	47.0 „ 31st ..	40.0 „ 26th ..	58.8	—	—	—
81.0 „ 12th ..	43.0 „ 1, 3 ..	38.0 „ 3rd ..	59.5	—	—	—
72.0 „ 7th ..	40.0 „ 23, 24 ..	36.0 „ 23rd ..	57.4	—	—	—
64.0 „ 1st ..	35.0 Several ..	32.0 „ 29th ..	48.0	—	—	—
57.0 „ 9th ..	36.0 „ 3rd ..	32.0 „ 3rd ..	47.5	—	1	—
59.0 „ 2, 3 ..	26.0 „ 31st ..	21.0 „ 31st ..	42.5	9	—	—
Average Daily Temperature			42.5	75	1	4

Month	EARTH TEMPERATURES				WIND (at Observation Hour, 0.900 hrs).				
	High- est 1 ft.	Low- est 1 ft.	High- est 4 ft.	Low- est 4 ft.	Calm	Quad- rant North	Quad- rant South	Quad- rant East	Quad- rant West
January ..	42.8	34.3	42.4	41.3	18	2	4	1	6
February ..	45.2	34.4	42.5	41.0	7	9	4	2	6
March ..	45.0	38.0	44.0	42.8	18	3	3	1	6
April ..	49.5	40.3	46.0	44.0	9	2	4	4	11
May ..	60.0	47.2	51.1	44.0	7	4	9	5	6
June ..	66.5	52.0	55.1	51.3	12	6	6	4	2
July ..	68.7	58.2	57.5	54.4	7	6	8	—	10
August ..	65.0	57.1	58.0	56.9	8	6	7	—	10
September ..	60.2	52.9	58.4	56.1	16	3	7	—	4
October ..	57.6	46.2	56.0	52.5	15	3	6	1	6
November ..	50.3	44.2	52.5	50.0	12	1	5	1	11
December ..	49.8	38.3	50.0	47.0	15	3	8	2	3
Totals ..					144	48	71	21	81

ABNORMAL PRECIPITATION.

Nov. 2nd and 3rd, 1931 ..	6.16 inches in 36 hours
November 3rd, 1931 ..	4.86 „
November 12th, 1938 ..	3.37 „
November 4th, 1926 ..	3.30 „ in 9½ hours
December 24th, 1925 ..	3.52 „
August 2nd, 1923 ..	3.60 „
July 13th, 1932 ..	2.56 „ in 5 hours
December 2nd, 1902 ..	3.12 „

SUNDRY NOTES.

Lightning observed	8 days
Thunder heard	11 days
Thunderstorms with precipitation	3 days
More than 1 inch of rain fell on	9 days
More than 2 inches of rain fell on	1 day
Warmest day	82.0 on June 25th
Coldest night	16.0 on January 5th

WEATHER OF 1953

For several years rainfall average has shown an upward tendency. This has been arrested by the less amount recorded for 1953. The deficiency was particularly marked in the first six months, but some leeway was made up later.

A feature was the mild autumn and early winter months; the passing out of many plants and foliage was delayed in consequence. Snowdrops were in evidence for Christmas and fairly plentiful at the turn of the year. We will oft remember Coronation year and its weather whims.

JANUARY. Frost and fog (the latter unique for our district, visibility down to fifty yards). Fairly dry.

FEBRUARY. Again dry. Frost and a little snow which lay on the meadows for five days.

MARCH. No rain until the 25th. A little fog; frost on twenty nights; sunny and warm. Hail showers at the close.

APRIL. Typical. Sunshine and showers; hail and rain; long fine spells.

MAY. A grand start, a fortnight without rain. Bright periods and showers followed, while a thunderstorm on the 25th damped the growing enthusiasm of decorators on the streets for the Coronation.

JUNE. Mainly showery. Very hot towards the end, 82° on the 25th. Rainfall now 13 inches against average of 19 inches.

JULY. Started well; followed by thundery conditions and frequent and heavy showers. A wet month. Visitors miserable; farmers annoyed.

AUGUST. First half good (beekeepers taking orders for heather honey); second half wet and cool (beekeepers cancelling orders for heather honey; farmers off for holidays).

SEPTEMBER. Plenty of fine, warm days; plenty of really wet ones. A deluge on the 21st caused alarm in the flood area of Keswick.

OCTOBER. A grand back-end for the season but a wet one for October. The last ten days put the salmon over the weir and High Hill residents in fear of their lives.

NOVEMBER. First snow (very little) on hills. A real wet month; rain on 25 days, several causing floods. No word of County Council (not even rumours) providing a Lifeboat at Greta Bridge. Over two inches of rain on 26th, causing flood, bad temper and hysteria.

DECEMBER. A nice month; snowdrops cheered everyone; a little frost. Farmers back, looking fit and in grand fettle. The watery grave for the "lower end" postponed a little longer, for which many thanks and a Happy New Year.

TOM WILSON, Observer.



