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BOROUGH OF BLYTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

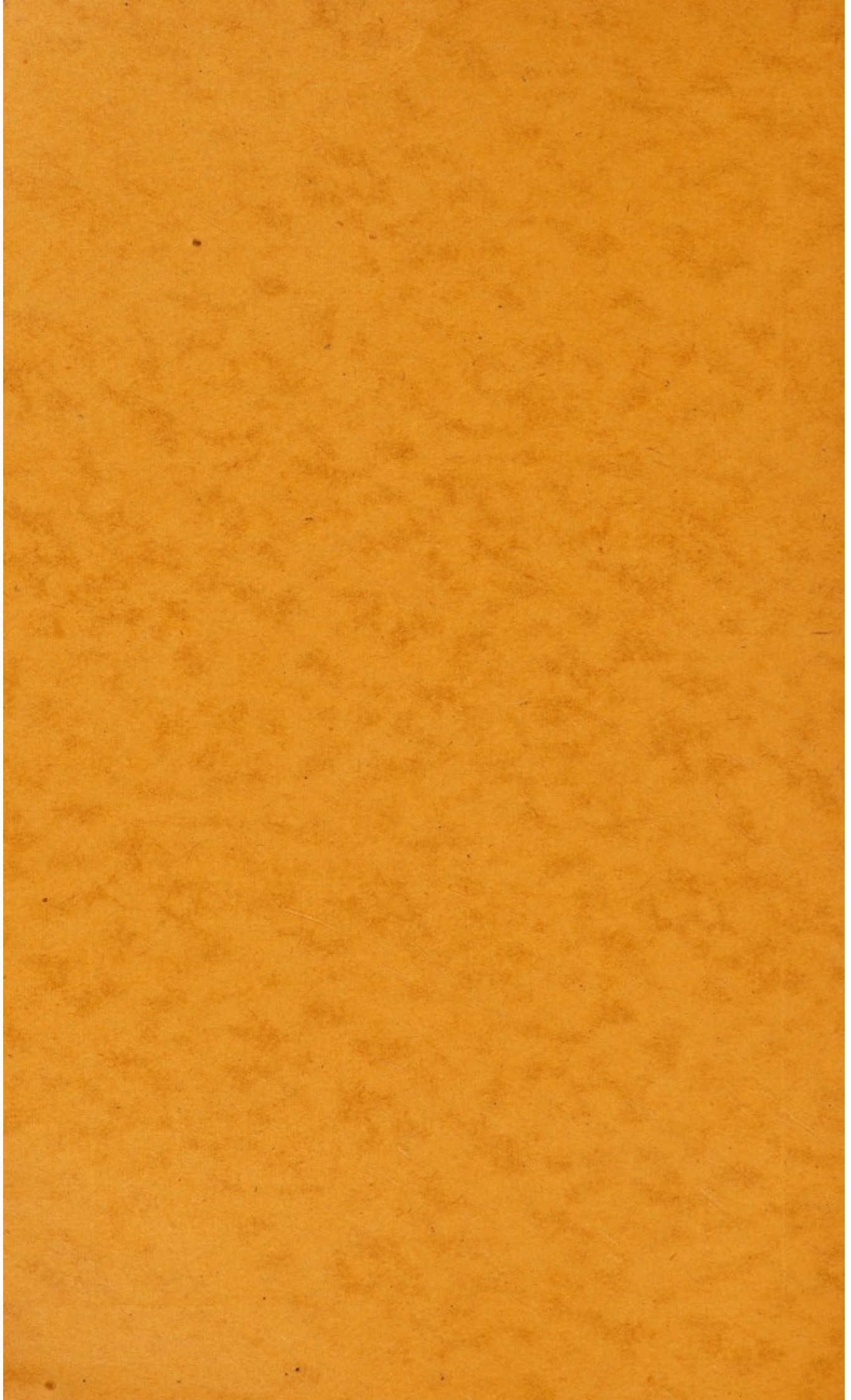
INCORPORATING THAT OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1949

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"DINSDALE,"
MARINE TERRACE,
BLYTH,
NORTHUMBERLAND.





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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : ALDERMAN DONNACHIE.

Vice-Chairman : ALDERMAN MITCHELL.

THE MAYOR.

ALDERMAN CURRY.

„ MURDY.

COUNCILLOR ALLISON.

„ BARKER (G. W.)

„ ELDER.

„ HOOPER.

„ KAY.

„ LAING.

„ PROCTOR.

COUNCILLOR RHODES.

„ ROURKE.

„ RUTHERFORD.

„ RYDER.

„ SEARLE.

„ SHEWAN.

„ SMITH.

„ SOULSBY.

„ SUMMERS.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1949.

*Medical Officer of Health and
Port Health Officer* { A. G. NEWELL, M.D., C.M., L.M., D.P.H.,
(Services terminated 31st October,
1949.)

Medical Officer of Health A. DONALDSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed 1st November, 1949.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector G. A. GILL, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector N. F. GODFREY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Temporary Clerks { C. FELLOWS.
T. G. MORALEE.

Temporary Shorthand Typist B. I. REDBURN.

Rodent Officer R. CRAMP. (Appointed 24th October,
1949.)

BOROUGH OF BLYTH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1949.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Borough during the year 1949.

I took over the duties of M.O.H. on 1st November, 1949, and I must ask you to give all credit to my predecessor, Dr. A. G. Newell, for the most satisfactory health conditions prevailing at the end of 1949.

I would like to thank the Council members and the members of the Health Committee for their welcome and their support during my short term of office in 1949. I would also like to thank the Officials of the Borough for their kindness and co-operation and the Staff of the Health Department for their loyalty.

I remain,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. DONALDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Blyth.

ANNUAL REPORT.

COMMENTS ON STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE: The Birth Rate continues to decline, the number of births in 1949 being 29 less than that of the previous year. The birth rate, however, for the Borough is above that for the country as a whole.

DEATH RATE: The Death Rate increased in 1949, the number of deaths increasing by 60. The death rate for the country as a whole, however, increased in relatively the same number.

INFANTILE MORTALITY: The Infantile Mortality Rate, *i.e.* death in children under 1 year, showed a gratifying fall from 54.2 per 1,000 live births to 39.5. The actual number of deaths occurring in 1949 under 1 year of age was 28, as against 40 in 1948. The most marked fall occurred in those children between the ages of 2 and 12 months, the neo-natal figure being an increase of 1 over last year. The neo-natal death rate is considered the hard core of infantile deaths and the most difficult to reduce. All avenues of approach to this subject are being explored and it is recommended that (a) better ante-natal care which entails regular attendances at ante-natal clinics whether they be general practitioners or County clinics; and (b) the finest care and attention of premature babies, are the most likely means of reducing this mortality rate. Infantile deaths in many cases appear to be preventable by the general practitioners, especially Pneumonia, but it should be remembered that the family doctor can do little to save an infant unless he is called in at the earliest possible moment. The time factor in infant treatment is most important.

STILL BIRTH RATE: The Still Birth Rate is practically unchanged there being an increase of 1 still birth over the last year.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Deaths :

Heart disease again was the commonest cause of death. 172 deaths were due to this.

Cancer was the next commonest, 16 per cent. of the total deaths was due to some form of cancer.

57 % of deaths occurred among those over 65 years of age.

Infant Deaths :

28 deaths of infants under 1 year of age occurred in 1949. This is lowest number recorded in the last 10 years. 17 of these deaths occurred in the first month and 10 of these were due to prematurity.

It should be noted that the infantile mortality rate for England and Wales was 32 per 1,000 live births compared with the Blyth figure of 39.5.

Infectious Disease :

1949 was a good year for infectious disease. There were 476 fewer cases notified than in the previous year. Notifications totalled 614 and of these 353 were Measles, 98 Whooping Cough, and 39 Scarlet Fever, all roughly half the number of 1948.

There was one case of Poliomyelitis and one case of Cerebro-spinal Fever.

Tuberculosis :

There were 27 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. Of these 22 were pulmonary cases. This is a decrease of 8 over 1948. There were 84 new cases taken in to the register, 72 pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary.

At the end of 1949 there were 283 cases on the register (230 pulmonary and 53 non-pulmonary, an increase of 27 since 1948).

Cancer :

There were 70 deaths from Cancer during the year which is an increase of 16 over 1948. The majority (24)

were again due to Cancer of the Stomach (9 male and 15 female). Over all, the sex distribution was 36 males and 34 females.

Diphtheria :

One case of Diphtheria was notified during 1949 and it is to be noted that this was not a resident of Blyth, but a visitor of one day.

This is an excellent record and it is due entirely to the high percentage of children immunised in the Borough. Every effort will be made to maintain this state of immunisation, which saves lives and expense for the population.

THE PROBLEM OF THE AGED.

In my report on the Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute at Eastbourne, 1950. I stressed the difficulties that authorities were experiencing in dealing with this question.

There is no doubt that people are living longer—the expectation of life is increasing and we are having among us greater numbers of old men and women.

Some of these old people are in good health and are fortunate in having the use of most, if not all of their faculties. They require little in the way of assistance, but because they have retired it is wrong that they should be made to feel that their role as useful citizens is ended. Many have a wealth of experience which could be put to good use. I see no reason why they should not be employed in work suited to their years and capabilities if they wish to carry on an active existence and I trust that efforts will be made to make use of them—men and women alike.

On the other hand not all are capable of working and some are content to live a quiet life at home with assistance in the house where necessary. This group is being admirably served by the Home Help Service. Domestic assistance for a few hours daily can make all the difference between living and existing to these people.

Then there are the aged and infirm and aged bed-ridden who require

- (a) Care and attention in hostel or institution without hospital care.
- (b) Hospital care.

It is increasingly difficult for doctors to obtain admission to hospital for these aged persons and chronic sick. In this the hospital service has failed and it may be that small local authorities will have to take the matter into their own hands and provide accommodation of some kind—if not hospital type, then accommodation for the aged and infirm who do not need hospital attention. This need not be of an elaborate type. A hostel where a dozen old people could be cared for—yet each doing a little towards the running of the house, would do much to meet the situation.

I do not think this is beyond the scope of this Borough.

HOUSING.

This remains the most pressing problem for Blyth. It is to be hoped that 1950 will see the end of many of the controls in the building trade which would do much to accelerate the building programme. Blyth has a great deal of bad property, much of it within the town centre which is unsightly, and I feel that more could be done by getting rid of this type of property and utilising the many derelict open spaces for rebuilding. There is a great deal to be said for the housing schemes which allow tenants to live away from their employment and which allows garden space. Some of the estates are small garden cities which are a credit to the Engineers' Department. It must be remembered however that this means time lost in travel and also money spent in transport. There are many who do not want gardens and who would prefer to live nearer their employment. I feel that this could be achieved without returning to the horrors of colliery rows. Flats or terrace houses of modern design could be planned within the town and I think it is true to say that though the initial costs of flats may be high the maintenance is much less over a period of years—an important point at a time when maintenance is causing the Council something of a headache.

The Council should not forget its obligations to the public living on the outskirts of the Borough. I would press for serious consideration to be given to the project of having a small estate near Seaton Sluice. There are people living in this area who are compelled to put up with the most primitive living conditions, but who cannot live in Blyth because their occupations necessitate their living in the Seaton Sluice area.

I would draw the attention of the Council to the fact that a number of their tenants are failing to maintain their new houses in a proper state. Drastic action from time to time in one or two cases would do much to improve the standard of these malefactors.

Section A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA.—No change in the Borough Area took place in 1949, and the acreage remains as formerly at 6,487.

POPULATION.—Registrar General's Estimate ... 35,300
 RATEABLE VALUE (1st April, 1949) £171,541
 SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (estimated) £667

Extracts from Vital Statistics.	1949.	1948.
The Birth Rate per 1,000 population	20.0	21.7
The Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.9	10.6
The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	39.5	54.2
The Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (dying in 4 weeks per 1,000 Births	24.0	20.8
The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	20.7	19.0
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 population	0.76	1.03
Maternal Mortality	1.4	Nil.

	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
Number of Births (Live) .	705	658	764	858	737	708
Number of Deaths	397	394	440	469	362	422
Number of Births in excess of Deaths ...	308	264	324	389	375	286

The principal causes of Infant Deaths were as follows:—

Prematurity	10	Neo-Natal.....	10
Acute Gastro Enteritis	—		4
Pneumonia	1	Neo-Natal.....	4
Pulmonary Congestion	—		1
Non-Viability	1	Neo-Natal.....	1
Accidents	1	Neo-Natal.....	1
Melaena Neonatorum	—		1
Congenital Malformation	2	Neo-Natal.....	3
Acute Catarrhal Jaundice	—		1
Intra Cranial Haemorrhage	1	Neo-Natal.....	1
Convulsions	1	Neo-Natal.....	1
	17		28

Neo-Natal Deaths. (Infants who died within 4 weeks.)

Infantile Deaths and Infantile Mortality Rates for ten year period 1940-1949.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Deaths.....	38	48	23	39	50	38	48	45	40	28
Infant Mortality Rate	68.8	83.7	42.6	64.5	70.9	57.7	62.8	52.4	54.2	39.5

The principal causes of death (of all ages) were as follows:—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Heart Disease	98	74	172
Brain Disease	23	23	46
Other diseases of Circulatory System	4	1	5
Lung Disease	3	6	9
Kidney Disease	7	2	9
Cancer	36	34	70
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES:—			
(a) Pneumonia	10	6	16
(b) Whooping Cough	—	1	1
(c) Acute Meningitis	1	—	1
(d) Encephalitis	—	1	1
VIOLENCE:—			
(a) Suicide	4	—	4
(b) Drowned	1	—	1
(c) Road Accident.....	1	1	2
(d) Other Causes	5	1	6
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	10	12	22
Tuberculosis, Other	3	2	5
Prematurity	6	4	10
Gastro-Enteritis	4	—	4
Congenital Malformation	5	—	5
Diabetes	3	—	3
Bronchitis	—	1	1
Duodenal Ulcer	1	—	1
Influenza	1	—	1
Senility	8	4	12
Other Causes	6	9	15
	240	182	422

231 of all deaths were in persons 65 years and over = 57 %.

28 of all deaths were in infants under 1 year = 6.6 %.

CANCER MORTALITY, 1949.

Situation of Disease and Age Groups in Years.

SITE.	Under 45		45—55		55—65		65—75		Over 75		Totals.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
<i>Digestive Tract.</i>													
Colon and													
Cecum	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1	1	1	5	3	8
Stomach	—	—	1	2	5	2	1	4	2	7	9	15	24
Rectum	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	3	1	4
Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	2
Bowel	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Oesophagus ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Abdomen	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
<i>Respiratory System.</i>													
Lungs	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	5
Bronchi	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	4
<i>Genito-Urinary System.</i>													
Bladder	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	3	—	—	4	4	8
Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Prostrate	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
<i>Other Organs.</i>													
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	3	3
Larynx	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	3
Kidney	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2
Ribs.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Neck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	1	—	2	4	17	8	10	13	6	9	36	34	70

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological.

(The Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital,
Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne).

A. Pathological.

(1) Throat, Nose and Ear Swabs.			
Corynebacterium	Diphtheria Present	Nil.	
"	" Not found.....	38—	38
Hæmolytic Streptococci	Present	19	
"	Not found.....	46—	65
(2) Sputum.			
B. Tuberculosis	Present	128	
"	Not found.....	257—	385
(3) Blood			
"	No Widal reaction	1	
"	No Br. Abortus reaction	1—	2
(4) Fæces (Pathogenic)			
	No organisms found		5
(5) Pleural, Fluid			
	Culture—No growth		2
(6) Urine (Pathogenic)			
	Few organisms present	2	
"	No organisms found	3—	5
(7) Other Specimens :			
	No organisms of any pathological significance		10

B. Water, Milk, etc.

(1) Water samples			
	Bacteriological	47—	
"	Chemical	1—	48
(2) Milk Samples.			
(a)	For B. tuberculosis		40
(b)	For Methylene Blue		40
(c) Pasteurised Milk :—			
	Methylene Blue Test		19
	Phosphate Test		19
(d)	Sterility test on Milk Bottles		78
(3) Ice-Cream—Bacteriological Methylene Blue Test			
			40

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1949.

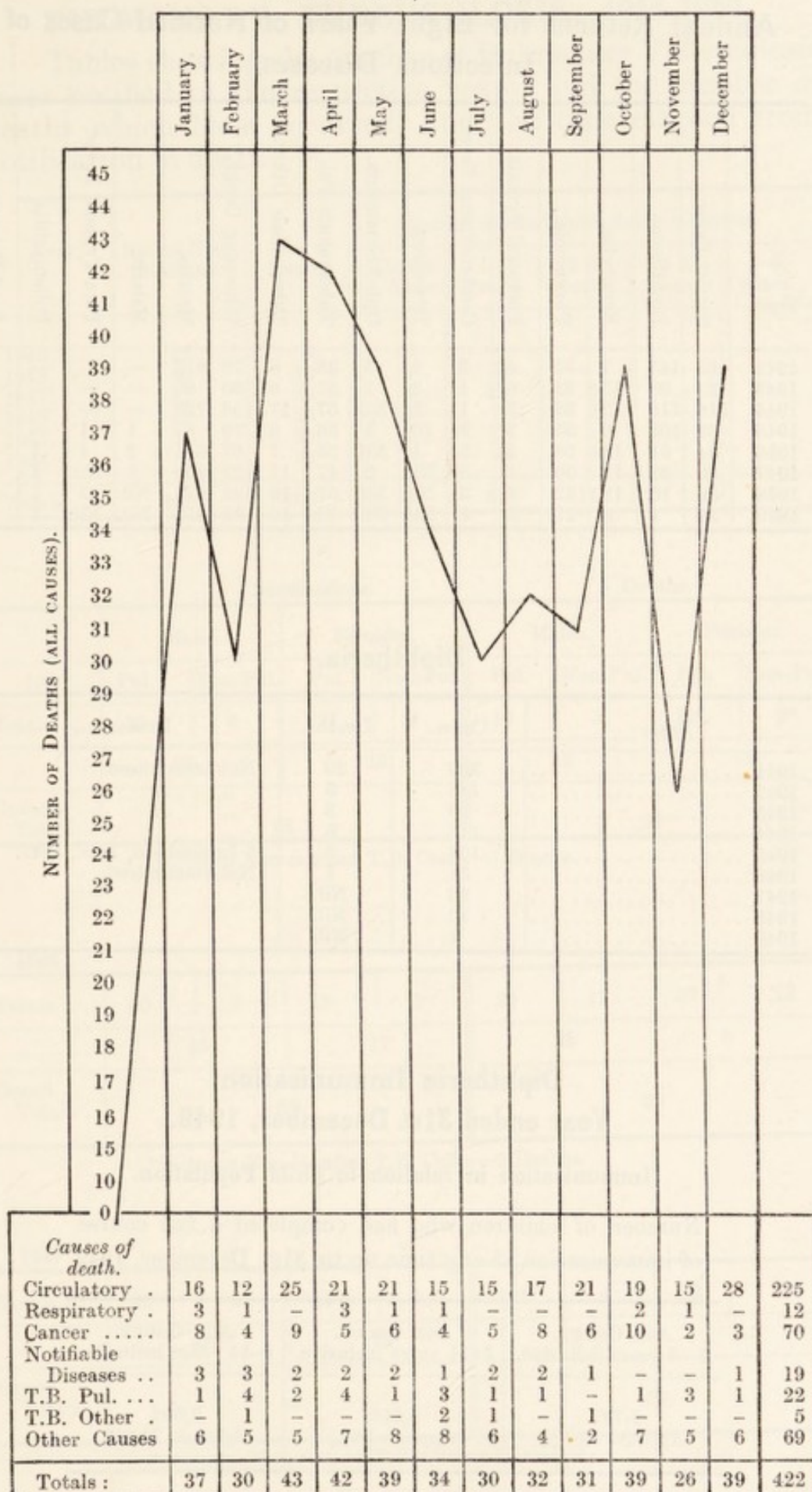
Statistics of Blyth for the last Ten Years.

Year.	Popu- lation.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Live Births.	Birth Rate.	Infantile Deaths.	Infant Death Rate.	Neo- Natal Death Rate.	No. Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified.								
									Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Polio- myelitis	Bowel Complaints		Tuberculosis.	
														Dysentery.	Typhoid.	Para- Typhoid.	Pul.
1940	34,520	..	14.2	552	18.0	38	68.8	..	751	30	6	44	1	18	38	1	
1941	34,770	438	13.1	573	19.3	48	83.7	..	77	24	29	300	..	1	44	13	
1942	31,600	384	11.8	539	17.6	23	42.6	18.6	912	65	79	145	..	1	38	8	
1943	30,590	403	11.9	604	18.1	39	64.5	39.7	80	123	90	98	..	4	57	8	
1944	30,540	397	13.0	705	23.1	50	70.9	27.9	723	116	156	116	..	2	57	17	
1945	31,080	394	12.6	658	21.2	38	57.7	22.8	87	69	79	108	..	11	56	8	
1946	33,020	440	13.3	764	23.1	48	62.8	22.9	641	44	67	51	1	2	55	7	
1947	33,920	469	13.8	858	25.2	45	52.4	33.4	256	29	122	23	1	..	47	11	
1948	33,980	362	10.6	737	21.7	40	54.2	20.8	673	89	182	10	1	3	57	19	
1949	35,300	422	11.9	708	20.0	28	39.5	24.0	352	39	98	1	1	..	72	12	

Registrar's Return—Deaths (All Causes) and Age Distribution—1949.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 yr.				1-2		2-5		5-15		15-20		20-25		25-35		35-45		45-55		55-65		Over 75 yrs.				GRAND TOTAL.		
	M		F		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
Heart disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	4	2	10	4	27	9	29	24	26	35	98	74	172
Brain Disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	5	3	9	8	7	9	23	23	46
Lung Disease	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	1	3	6	9
Circulatory Disease (Other)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	1	5
Kidney Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	7	2	9
Pneumonia	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	4	10	6	16
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	1
Acute Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Violence :																													
(a) Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	4	-	4
(b) Drowned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
(c) Road Accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
(d) Other Causes	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	6
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	4	-	3	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	-	-	-	10	12	22
Tuberculosis—Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	16	9	11	12	6	9	36	34	70	
Cancer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	6	4	10
Prematurity	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Gastro-Enteritis	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Congenital Malformation	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Senility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	4	12
Other Causes	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	3	3	1	1	8	9	17
M. 19	8	2	1	1	2	3	5	3	5	12	20	54	67	29	54	60	240	182	422										
F.																													
27	2	2	2	2	4	6	9	8	18	32	83	117	114																

DEATHS, 1949.



Annual Returns for Eight Years of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases.

Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Dysentery.	Oph-Neonatorum.	Tuberculosis Pul.	Tuberculosis Other.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Malaria.	Para-Typhoid Fever.	Poliomyelitis.	Food Poisoning.
1942	65	145	7	55	4	3	1	5	38	8	79	912	—	—	—	—
1943	123	98	13	82	6	1	4	2	57	8	90	80	—	—	—	—
1944	116	116	12	39	3	1	2	Nil.	57	17	156	723	—	—	—	—
1945	69	108	6	35	3	9	10	3	56	8	79	87	1	1	—	—
1946	44	51	13	58	2	3	1	Nil.	55	7	67	641	2	1	1	—
1947	29	23	13	50	1	8	Nil.	2	47	11	122	256	1	Nil.	1	—
1948	89	10	18	32	2	3	Nil.	Nil.	57	19	182	673	Nil.	3	1	—
1949	39	1	6	27	3	1	Nil.	Nil.	72	12	98	352	Nil.	Nil.	1	1

Diphtheria.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
1941	300	20	Not Immunised.
1942	145	5	" "
1943	98	3	" "
1944	116	6	" "
1945	108	3	1 Immunised, Dec., 1942.
1946	51	1	Not Immunised.
1947	23	Nil.	
1948	10	Nil.	
1949	1	Nil.	

Diphtheria Immunisation Year ended 31st December, 1949.

Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1949

AGE GROUP. 0—4 years inclusive.	AGE GROUP. 5—14 years inclusive.	AGE GROUP. 0—14 years inclusive.
1,757 Approx. 53·7%	5,245 Approx. 96%	7,002 Approx. 74·9%

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS—1944-1949.

Tables showing the number of Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases notified in the respective years, and the number of deaths which have occurred, and the time elapsed from notification to death:—

Year.	No. of Notifications.	No. of Deaths.	Period within which death occurred.				
			Under 1 Year.	1-2 years.	2-3 years.	3-4 years.	4-5 years.
1949.....	72	4	4	—	—	—	—
1948.....	56	12	7	5	—	—	—
1947.....	47	20	6	12	2	—	—
1946.....	55	25	21	2	2	—	—
1945.....	56	20	12	7	1	—	—
1944.....	58	24	5	5	6	7	1
Totals	344	105	55	31	11	7	1

Notifications.					Deaths.			
	Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.	
1945	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
Totals	35	4	21	4	10	2	10*	2*
„ ..	39		25		12		12	
Grand Totals ..	64				24			

*Includes Non-notified T.B. Cases—4 Deaths.

1946								
Totals	40	5	15	2	22	11	5*	Nil.
„	45		17		33		5	
Grand Totals ..	62				38			

*Includes Non-Notified T.B. Cases—2 Deaths.

1947								
Totals	28	7	19	4	18*	4	12	3*
„	35		23		22		15	
Grand Totals ..	58				37			

*Includes Non-notified T.B. Cases—3 Deaths.

Notifications.					Deaths.			
	Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.	
1948	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
Totals	26	16	30	4	16	2*	14	3*
„ ..	42		34		18		17	
Grand Totals . .	76				35			

*Includes Non-notified T.B. Cases—2 Deaths.

1949								
Totals	39	6	33	6	10*	3*	12*	2*
„	45		39		13		14	
Grand Totals ..	84				27			

*Includes Non-notified T.B. Cases—6 Deaths.

Tuberculosis—1939-1949.

Year.	All forms of Tuberculosis notifications per year.	Number of Deaths per year.	Deaths rate per 1,000 population.
1939.....	62	31	1.0
1940.....	49	30	0.86
1941.....	57	20	0.53
1942.....	48	31	0.98
1943.....	65	20	0.65
1944.....	74	30	0.98
1945.....	64	24	0.77
1946.....	62	38	1.1
1947.....	58	37	1.1
1948.....	76	35	1.0
1949.....	84	27	0.76

TUBERCULOSIS.

Statement of Tuberculosis—1949 (as per Register).

	MALES.		Females.		Totals.
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
(a) Number of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at commencement of year	126	28	82	20	256
(b) Number of new cases notified under the "Regulations of 1930" for the first time during the year	39	6	33	6	84
(c) Number of cases restored to Register having been removed previous to 1949	—	—	1	1	2
(d) Number of cases added to Register and brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification....	5	1	3	—	9
(e) Number of cases removed from the Register during the year	32	5	27	4	68
(f) Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year.	138	30	92	23	283

Tuberculosis—1949.

Summary of information extracted from Records Department relating to cases removed from the Tuberculosis Register of the Borough during 1949.

	DEATHS.				Grand Total.	
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.			
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
	8	11	3	2		
Total	19		5		24	
	RECOVERED.					
	14	11	2	1		
	25		3			28
	Total	25		3		28
	REMOVED FROM DISTRICT.					
	10	6	—	—		
	16		—			16
	Total	16		—		16
					68	

Tuberculosis—1949.

Age Groups.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0-1.....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1-5.....	4	1	1	—	—	—	1	1*
5-15.....	6	2	1	1	1*	—	1	—
15-25....	12	17	2	3	2	4	1*	1
25-35....	1	6	—	—	—	3	—	—
35-45....	6	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
45-55....	3	—	1	1	3*	1*	—	—
55-65....	5	3	1	—	1	2*	—	—
Over 65..	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
Total ...	39	33	6	6	10	12	3	2
Grand Totals ..	72		12		22		5	

*Includes Non-notified T.B. Cases—6 Deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND AGE DISTRIBUTION.

Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1949 and of the Final Numbers according to Age and Sex, after corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Ages, etc. N.K.—Age unknown.	Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.		Measles.		Diphtheria.		Polio- myelitis.		Acute Pneumonia		Cerebro- Spinal Fever.		Erysipelas.		Food Poisoning.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally notified.	16	23	47	51	183	169	—	1	—	1	17	10	1	1	3	3	—	1
Civilians (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Civilians (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GRAND TOTALS	39	—	98	—	352	—	1	—	1	—	27	—	2	—	6	—	1	—
Final Numbers after correction :																		
0—	—	—	10	6	9	9	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	1	1	13	20	58	61	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—	4	3	15	11	50	34	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—	9	14	8	13	60	62	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—	—	5	1	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	2	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	7	3	1	—	2	—	1	—
10—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	—	1	3	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Civilians	16	23	47	51	183	169	—	1	—	1	17	10	1	—	3	3	—	1
GRAND TOTALS	39	—	98	—	352	—	1	—	1	—	27	—	1	—	6	—	1	—
Non-Civilians 15—45 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Notifiable Diseases.																		
Civilians :	Originally Notified.		Final Numbers after correction.															
	M.	F.	M.	F.														
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	3	—	—	—	3												

Corrected notifications :—
1 Cerebro-spinal Fever re-diagnosed as unresolved Pneumonia
and Whooping Cough.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—1949.

DISEASES.	Under 1 year.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65 yrs.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	4	3	23	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	39
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	6
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	—	—	2	2	1	4	4	29	7	8	3	8	4	72
Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	5	—	—	2	1	—	12
Pneumonia	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	2	4	4	2	7	2	27
Oph-Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	16	13	19	15	12	21	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	98
Measles	18	56	64	43	40	122	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	352
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	36	73	87	66	56	172	20	42	13	15	8	20	6	614

NOTE.—1 Cerebro-Spinal Fever was re-diagnosed as unresolved Pneumonia and Whooping Cough.

HOUSING—1949.

Bebside & Cowpen Clearance Areas.

Tenants and Sub-Tenants in occupation of houses when
census was taken on 13th January, 1949.

Area.	No. of Tenants.	No. of Sub-Tenants.	Total.
Bebside No. 1.....	127	9	136
" " 2.....	46	9	55
" " 3.....	60	4	64
" " 4.....	5	—	5
" " 5.....	15	—	15
" " 6.....	1	—	1
" " 7.....	3	—	3
" " 8.....	3	—	3
	260	22	282
Cowpen No. 1.....	10	1	11
" " 2.....	7	—	7
" " 3.....	7	—	7
	24	1	25

Other Houses situated in above areas but not included in
Slum Clearance Areas.

	4	1	5
--	---	---	---

SUMMARY.

Areas.	Tenants.	Sub- Tenants.	Total Families.
Bebside Areas	260	22	282
Cowpen Area	24	1	25
Other Houses	4	1	5
	288	24	312

Quayside Clearance Areas.

Tenants and Sub-Tenants in occupation of Houses when
census was taken on 31st August, 1949.

Area.	No. of Tenants.	No. of Sub- Tenants.	Total Families.
Quayside No. 1.....	7	—	7
" " 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1	—	1
" " 8.....	31	—	31
" " 9.....	—	—	—
" " 10.....	19	—	19
	58	—	58

RE-HOUSING.

Number of families granted Council Houses, 1949, as per
Lists received from Rates Dept.:—

		FROM WARDS.							
<i>By Points Scheme.</i>		<i>Beb-</i>		<i>Del-</i>	<i>Ples-</i>	<i>Rid-</i>	<i>Water</i>	<i>From</i>	
		<i>side.</i>	<i>Croft.</i>	<i>aval.</i>	<i>sey.</i>	<i>ley.</i>	<i>loo.</i>	<i>outside</i>	<i>Totals</i>
								<i>Boro.</i>	
To	North Farm Estate.....	4	10	6	10	6	11	—	47
„	Newsham Rd. Estate No. 2..	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	7
„	Other Council Houses.....	4	2	2	9	6	8	—	31
„	Prefabs.—Isabella	4	5	1	2	1	3	—	16
„	Prefabs.—Newsham	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	4
„	Prefabs.—Plessey Rd.	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Totals		13	20	9	23	14	22	6	107
<i>Slum Clearance.</i>									
To	North Farm Estate.....	3	—	2	—	1	—	—	6
„	Beb-side Estate	92	—	—	—	—	—	—	92
„	Other Council Houses.....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
„	Newsham Estate No. 2	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	10
Totals		95	—	3	—	11	—	—	109

HOUSING REPORT—1949.

Houses completed in 1949.

Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	145
Permanent Traditional—Contractors	5
B.I.S.F. Permanent Pre-fabs.—Contractors	Nil.
Aluminium Pre-fabs.—Contractors	5

Houses in Progress 31st December, 1949.

Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	129
Aluminium Pre-fabs.—Contractors	Nil.

Houses approved by Ministry of Health but not commenced 31st December, 1949.

Permanent Traditional	28
Aluminium Permanent Prefabs.	Nil.

Permanent Houses built by Private Enterprise, 1949.

Permanent Traditional	2
Conversions—Flats	Nil.

No. of Families re-housed in 1949.

Slum Clearance Allocated	155
--------------------------------	-----

Houses Completed Post-War.

Prefabs.—Tarran	44
Prefabs.—Aluminary Temporary	106
Prefabs.—Aluminary Permanent	59
Prefabs.—B.I.S.F. Permanent	72
Traditional	482
Total	763

Part II. Sanitary Section—1949.

Resumé of Work carried out by the Department.

Public Health Act, 1936.

The number of general complaints by the public shows no sign of lessening, particularly with regard to items of disrepair to properties, but steady progress is being maintained in alleviating these conditions by means of co-operation with the Owners, Agents and Contractors and as a final resort by reporting to the Health Committee and the service of Statutory Notices.

The greatest obstacle in the way of more rapid abatement of the nuisance is definitely the cost of carrying out the repairs so that the owners are loth to carry out more than the barest minimum, but, with one or two exceptions, Owners are in the main fulfilling their obligations under the Act.

Public Health Act, 1936.

During 1949 a comprehensive survey was carried out of all Public Houses and Licensed Clubs in the area and following communication with the various firms and associations involved, considerable improvements to the premises in the form of additional or new sanitary accommodation, provision of hot and cold washing facilities, automatic pumps to the cellars for drainage purposes and certain other amenities have either been completed or are in progress.

As these improvements are listed in the Quarterly Reports of the Department, it is not proposed to tabulate them here.

Housing Act, 1936.

Housing is still problem No. 1 to the public and the Department is called upon daily to inspect insanitary properties, investigate complaints as to overcrowding, rehousing of tuberculous patients, etc., and constant contact is maintained with the Housing Officer on these points.

Progress is being maintained in the rehousing of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and it is hoped that by the end of 1950 there will be a considerable elimination in the number of such cases living in overcrowded or insanitary conditions.

Consideration should also be given however to that section of the Points Scheme where chronic cases of ill-health other than Tuberculosis may be awarded additional points on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health.

Regard should also be given to the re-housing en-bloc of tenants occupying tenements subject to Demolition Orders under Part II. of the Act. The present tendency which is to be deplored, is for the re-housing of these tenants on a Points basis instead of the condition of the property. This frequently means that some of the more overcrowded tenants are rehoused within a reasonable time of the Order being made, but the less overcrowded families or the elderly couples have to remain in occupation in properties which are semi-derelict and subject to all sorts of destruction and nuisances from the public generally.

I fully appreciate the difficulty of the Housing Committee with regard to the allocation of new houses, but this point might be borne in mind and either the tenants rehoused entirely, or left in occupation pending the availability of sufficient houses. This in turn would facilitate the early demolition of these unsightly blocks of properties.

Consideration might also be given to the resumption on a small scale of work under Section 9 of the Act, which permits a Local Authority to require the repair of insanitary properties if satisfied that the works may be carried out at reasonable expense, and in the event of default by the Owner to carry out the works themselves and recover the cost.

This authority is of great value where the required repairs cannot be classed as "Nuisances" under the Public Health Act and will also assist in the maintenance of the properties with the consequent reduction in the strain on the Council's housing resources.

Pending the re-introduction of Clearance Area procedure, action is being continued in the demolition of some of the properties which require more immediate attention and it is intended, as far as possible, to press ahead with the making of Demolition Orders on the Phoenix Street area where, in some cases, the properties have been abandoned by the Owners.

These, together with the Coomassie Road and Robert Street areas, constitute those properties which have long outlived any semblance of reasonable housing accommodation.

Shop Act, 1934-6.

A new survey of all shop premises in the Borough has been commenced with regard to the provision of adequate facilities under Sec. 10 of the Act, i.e., suitable and sufficient means of ventilation, temperature, lighting, sanitary conveniences and washing facilities and at the end of the year a number of improvements had been made to various premises.

It is hoped that Owners will co-operate by providing additional or more modern appliances in place of many which, though complying with the requirements, are out-dated, and by so doing, help to improve the standard of business premises throughout the town.

Factories Act, 1937.

A similar survey has been commenced of all premises registered under the above Act, but only a little progress has been made.

It is anticipated, however, that 1950 will see an increase in the number of inspections of such premises, particularly those where the local authority are responsible for the Health (General Provisions) so that a higher standard may be reached.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Slaughter of Animals.

A total of 7,510 animals were slaughtered at the Council's Abattoir during 1949, an increase of slightly more than 1,000 over the previous year, slaughtering and inspection being carried out on an average of three days per week except during the "peak" months of July to November, when slaughtering may take place on four to five days weekly.

As the members of the Council are well aware, the conditions under which this slaughtering and inspection are carried out are far from satisfactory and every credit is due to the slaughtering staff for the efficient and clean way in which the carcasses are dressed considering the lack of adequate facilities.

It is hoped that the Government will soon declare its policy with regard to the centralising of slaughtering so that the Council may proceed with the development of a new abattoir which is urgently required.

Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, and the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

On the 1st October, 1949, the above Act and Regulations came into operation, placing the responsibility for the registration, inspection and supervision of dairy farms on the Ministry of Agriculture, the licensing of pasteurising plants on the Food & Drugs Authority and leaving the local authority responsible for the licensing of dealers and dairy premises.

The present position in Blyth is that there is one High Temperature Short-Time Pasteurising plant dealing with approximately 2,600 gallons per day, plus six dairymen retailing bottled pasteurised milk from Coast Creameries Ltd., one dairyman retailing "Accredited" Milk and 23 Distributors retailing Sterilised milk in bottles only.

Of the four milk producers in the area, one produces "Tuberculin Tested—Farm Bottled," one producer forwards milk for pasteurisation to the Coast Creameries Ltd., and the other two provide milk to the Pasteurising Plant in the Borough for processing.

It may be stated with confidence therefore that the Borough has a safe milk supply.

Food Premises.

A certain amount of improvements were carried out during the year to several of the food premises, but the standard generally leaves much to be desired.

One of the major difficulties impeding improvements is the small and congested nature of several of the premises which prevents the provision of many of the more desirable facilities, and this, together with the reluctance of Owners and Occupiers to spend any considerable amount on what to them may appear ^{on} necessary luxuries in the form of modern fitments, wall and floor finishes, lighting, painting, etc., is definitely retarding the improvement of the shopping centre.

It is hoped that when the proposed new shopping facilities are provided on the newly developed housing estates, that the Council will provide a lead by erecting establishments of an adequate size according to the needs of the particular business for which it is intended and, as far as permitted, will fit out the premises on the most up-to-date lines.

SANITARY SECTION—1949.

Public Health Act, 1936. Summary of Notices Served.

Number of Informal Notices served during the year:—

WARDS.

Bebside.	Delaval.	Croft.	Plessey.	Ridley.	Waterloo.	Total.
30	7	105	70	93	109	414

Number of Informal Notices complied during the year:—

Bebside.	Delaval.	Croft.	Plessey.	Ridley.	Waterloo.	Total.
51	5	67	41	71	90	325

Number of Statutory Notices served during the year:—

Ward.	Section 39	Section 45	Section 56	Section 75	Section 89	Section 93	Section 138	Sec. 13 F. & D. Act.	Total.
Bebside ...	3	1	—	1	—	6	1	—	12
Delaval ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Croft	13	7	—	9	1	33	—	1	64
Plessey ...	2	2	—	4	—	8	—	—	16
Ridley	—	3	—	10	—	17	—	—	30
Waterloo ..	12	6	1	7	—	24	—	—	50
Totals :	30	19	1	32	1	89	1	1	174

Number of Statutory Notices complied during the year:—

Ward.	Section 39	Section 45	Section 56	Section 75	Section 89	Section 93	Section 138	Sec. 13 F. & D. Act.	Total.
Bebside ...	3	1	—	—	—	7	—	—	11
Delaval ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Croft	9	8	—	11	—	26	—	—	54
Plessey ...	4	6	—	5	—	13	—	—	28
Ridley	4	2	1	10	—	18	—	—	35
Waterloo ..	17	9	3	2	—	29	—	—	60
Totals :	37	26	4	29	—	93	—	—	189

FOOD AND DRUG ACTS, 1938—1944.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Details of Samples Taken.

Samples of Raw Milk from producers outside Borough:—

METHYLENE BLUE.		BACILLUS TUBERCULOSIS.			Total Samples.
Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Positive.	Negative	Tests not carried out.	
22	15	1	34	2 (Animals died)	74
3	4	—	6 (1 not to hand)	From producers inside Borough :	14
25	19	1	40	2	88

Pasteurised Milk from a producer/retailer inside the Borough:—

METHYLENE BLUE.		PHOSPHATASE TEST.			Total Samples.
Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Tests Void.	
By Borough. 19	Nil.	18	1	—	38
By County Council. 4	Nil.	2	1	1	8
23	Nil.	20	2	1	46

Sterility tests on Milk bottles:—

Satis- factory.	Fairly Satisfactory.	Unsatis- factory.	Unable to test.	Total.
67	5	3	3	78

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938—

Other Foods.

The following foodstuffs were found in the course of inspection to be unfit for human consumption and were treated as follows:—

Meat	112	Tins—Destroyed.	Cheese	8	Boxes—Destroyed.
Tomatoes	32	„ „	Pies	112	„
Milk	758	„ „	Fish	78	Stones „
Preserves	26	„ „	Chickens	110	lbs. „
Fish	269	„ „	Ducks	65	„ „
Fruit.....	120	„ „	Sausage	65	„ „
Soups	91	„ „	Figs	9	„ „
Vegetables	202	„ „	Barley Sugar	550	„ „
Salads.....	10	„ „	Flour	21	„ „
Sausage	37	„ „	Currants	56	„ „
Tomato Juice	272	„ „	Brawn	3	„ „
Mussels.....	43	„ „	Jellied Chicken	16	„ „
Rabbit	1	„ „	Black Pudding.....	20	„ „
Syrup	3	„ „	Mincemeat	48	„ „
Dried Egg	2	„ „	Pig Trotters	56	„ „
Paste	1	„ „	Bread	8	Loaves „
Cocoa	10	„ „	Nutrient Bread ..	63	„ „
Xmas Puddings ..	2	„ „	Sago	1	Cwt. Animal feeding.
Danish Pork	9	„ „	Margarine	191½	lbs. Salvaged.
Pickles	4	Jars „	Bacon	10¾	„ „
Sauce	17	Bottles „	Butter	14	„ „
Fruit Juice	7	„ „	Gran. Sugar	3	Cwt. 2 qrs. „
Dessert Powder ..	84	Packets „			
Pudding Mixture .	289	„ „			
Barley Flakes ...	20	„ „			

The following foodstuffs were salvaged from the premises of the Blyth Co-operative Society Ltd., Newcastle Road, Newsham, following a fire on the 21st August, 1949:—

Butter	6 Barrels × 112 lbs., plus 448 lbs. loose—suitable for manufacture.
	226 lbs.—Unfit for consumption.
Margarine	680 lbs.—suitable for manufacture.
	454 lbs.—Unfit for consumption.
Lard	276 lbs.—suitable for manufacture.
Compound Cooking Fat ...	5 cwts.—unfit for consumption.
Cheese	30 lbs.—unfit for consumption.
Tea	300 lbs.—Damaged by water.
Peas	300 lbs.—suitable for animal feeding.
Porridge Oats	127 lbs.—suitable for animal feeding.
Rice	160 lbs.—suitable for animal feeding.
Mixed Cereals (Shredded Wheat, Corn Flakes, Puffed Wheat, etc.)	460 lbs.—suitable for animal feeding.
Flour	13-10st. bags plus 432 lbs. loose—damaged by water.
Sugar	Approx. 2½ tons—damaged by water.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Animals Slaughtered.

Month.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs (Cottagers).	Total.
January	58	—	371	10	439
February	66	—	529	19	614
March	59	—	316	20	395
April	86	—	195	—	281
May	131	—	139	—	270
June	53	—	110	1	164
July	186	—	291	—	477
August	199	—	370	—	569
September	165	—	601	1	767
October	178	72	1,095	8	1,353
November	203	62	1,383	24	1,672
December	114	—	427	17	558
Totals	1,498	134	5,827	100	7,559

The following carcasses, part carcasses and organs were condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

	No.	Weight in lbs.
Cattle: Entire carcasses and all organs	3	2,270
Sheep: " " " "	7	605
Calves: " " " "	1	32
Cattle: Part carcasses and/or organs	1,490	17,306
Sheep: " " " "	177	576
Pigs: " " " "	4	115
Beef: Part Hindquarters and Trimmings	—	365
Mutton:	—	11

Public Health (Imported Meat) Regulations, 1937.

The following imported meats were condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

	No.	Weight in lbs.
Beef (Hindquarters).....	10	979
Beef (Steaking Cuts)	—	927
Mutton	—	70
Corned Beef	24 tins	112½
Corned Mutton	2 tins	6¾

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ..	1,450	48	134	5,827	99
Number inspected	1,450	48	134	5,827	99
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
1. Whole carcases con- demned	—	1	1	8	—
2. Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	1,014	17	2	164	1
3. Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tub- erculosis	69.93	37.5	2.24	.3	1.01
Tuberculosis only :					
1. Whole carcases con- demned	1	1	—	—	—
2. Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	90	18	—	—	—
3. Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.27	39.58	—	—	—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector):—

Premises. (1)	M/C Line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of			M/C line No. (7)
			Inspection. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	98	106	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	78	16	1	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	Nil.	Nil.	—	—	3
Total		176	132	1	—	

2. Cases in which Defects were found :—

Particulars.	M/C line No.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were institu- ted.	M/C line No.
		Found	Remi- ded.	Referred.			
				To H.M. Inspec- tor.	By H.M. Inspec- tor.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	1	1	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temp. (S.3.)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(a) Insufficient	10	1	1	—	1	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total	60	2	2	—	1	—	60

Public Health Act, 1936—Water Sampling.

The following water samples were taken during the year for bacteriological analysis:—

1. Newcastle Water	12
2. Hepscott Water (before Chlorination)	11
3. Mixed Hepscott and Newcastle Water (after Chlorination)	11
4. Tynemouth Water	12
5. Hepscott Water (Standpipe)	1

All the above samples proved to be satisfactory.

1 Sample was submitted for chemical analysis and proved to be satisfactory.

Cats and Dogs Destruction.

During the year the following animals were humanely destroyed:—

<i>Month.</i>	<i>Dogs.</i>		<i>Cats.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
January	16	..	3	..	19
February	18	..	7	..	25
March	16	..	8	..	24
April	20	..	3	..	23
May	18	..	11	..	29
June	14	..	6	..	20
July	26	..	7	..	33
August	23	..	11	..	34
September	22	..	2	..	24
October	15	..	10	..	25
November	27	..	8	..	35
December	33	..	9	..	42
	248		85		333

Until November, 1949, the destruction of animals was carried out by chloroforming, but a new electric lethal chamber was then installed which is a decided improvement on the former method. From humanitarian reasons it is hoped that the public will take full advantage of these facilities which are painless and instantaneous, rather than allow their pets to suffer needless pain or to turn them loose.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Details of Analyst's Reports. Ice Cream.

Manu- facturer.	BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.		CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.				Sample taken from.
	No. of Samples.	Methylene Blue Test.	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue.	Water.	Non-fatty Solids.	Fat.	
No. 1.	1	Grade 3	1½ hrs.	—	—	—	Dry Ice container in Vehicle.
	2	Grade 1	4½ "	72.7	22.1	5.2	Storage Refrigerator in Factory.
	3	Grade 2	3 "	63.9	34.1	2.0	Storage Refrigerator in Factory.
	4	Grade 1	4½ "	71.9	24.8	3.3	Storage Refrigerator in Factory.
	5	Grade 1	4½ "	—	—	—	Storage Refrigerator in Factory.
	6	Grade 4	0 "	—	—	—	Can on Motor Vehicle.
No. 2	1	Grade 1	4½ "	—	—	—	Storage Refrigerator in Factory.
	2	Grade 3	2 "	69.9	22.1	8.0	Storage Refrigerator in Factory.
	3	Grade 3	3 "	70.8	20.7	8.5	Storage Refrigerator in Factory.
	4	Grade 1	4½ "	68.7	23.2	8.1	Storage Refrigerator in Factory.
	5	Grade 1	4½ "	—	—	—	Storage Refrigerator in Factory.
	6	Grade 4	0 "	—	—	—	Block from Cutting Machine.
	7	Grade 1	4½ "	—	—	—	Chock Block from Storage Refrigerator.
No. 3	1	Grade 1	4½ "	—	—	—	Continuous Freezer in Shop.
	2	Grade 3	2 "	69.8	24.6	5.6	Dry Ice Container in Shop.
	3	Grade 2	3 "	73.8	22.4	3.8	Dry Ice Container in Shop.
	4	Grade 2	4 "	73.3	21.6	5.1	Continuous Freezer in Shop.
	5	Grade 1	4½ "	70.5	22.8	6.7	Dry Ice Container in Shop.
	6	Grade 3	3 "	—	—	—	Salt and Ice Freezer in Factory.
No. 4	1	Grade 1	4½ "	—	—	—	Continuous Freezer in Factory.
	2	Grade 3	3 "	66.4	23.0	10.6	Continuous Freezer in Factory.
	3	Grade 1	4½ "	65.9	21.4	12.7	Continuous Freezer in Factory.
	4	Grade 1	4½ "	71.0	23.4	5.6	Ice-brick preparatory to wrapping in Factory.
	5	Grade 1	4½ "	65.2	26.9	7.9	Continuous Freezer in Factory.
	6	Grade 1	4½ "	—	—	—	Continuous Freezer in Factory.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Details of Analyst's Reports.

Ice Cream.

Manu- facturer.	BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.			CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.			Sample taken from.
	No. of Samples.	Methylene Blue Test.	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue.	Water.	Non-fatty Solids.	Fat.	
No. 5	1	Grade 1	4½	83.8	10.6	5.6	Continuous Freezer in Shop.
	2	Grade 1	4½	80.5	17.0	2.5	Continuous Freezer in Shop.
	3	Grade 4	0	76.5	21.0	2.5	Continuous Freezer in Shop.
	4	Grade 1	4½	74.6	22.5	2.9	Continuous Freezer in Shop.
	5	Grade 4	0	—	—	—	Continuous Freezer in Shop.
No. 6	1	Grade 2	4	66.4	32.7	0.9	Continuous Freezer in Shop.
	2	Grade 1	4½	68.9	30.3	0.8	Continuous Freezer in Shop.
	3	Grade 2	3½	68.3	30.0	1.7	Continuous Freezer in Shop.
	4	Grade 1	4½	72.7	25.8	1.5	Continuous Freezer in Shop.
	5	Grade 2	3	—	—	—	Continuous Freezer in Shop.
	6	Grade 3	2	—	—	—	Continuous Freezer in Factory.
No. 7	1	Grade 2	4	70.0	22.6	7.4	Freezer in Factory.
No. 8	1	Grade 1	4½	69.3	22.7	8.0	Carton from continuous Freezer in Shop.
	2	Grade 3	2	84.3	14.5	1.2	Wrapped Brick from continuous Freezer.
	3	Grade 4	0	—	—	—	Continuous Freezer in Shop.

Percentage of Grades, 1949.

<i>Manufacturer.</i>	<i>Grade I.</i>	<i>Grade II.</i>	<i>Grade III.</i>	<i>Grade IV.</i>	<i>Average Fat Content.</i>
	%	%	%	%	%
No. 1	50	16.6	16.6	16.6	3.5
No. 2	57.1	—	28.6	14.3	8.2
No. 3	33.3	33.3	33.3	—	5.3
No. 4	83.3	—	16.6	—	9.2
No. 5	60	—	—	40	3.4
No. 6	33.3	50	16.6	—	1.2
No. 7	—	100	—	—	7.4
<i>Retailer.</i>					
No. 1	33.3	—	33.3	33.3	8.0*
					1.2†
	* 1st Sample.		† 2nd Sample.		

In the report of the Public Health Laboratory Service it states that the interpretation of the bacteriological results should be based on a series of samples and that 50 % of a vendor's samples should be in Grade I, 80 % in Grades I or II, not more than 20 % in Grade III and none in Grade IV.

From the figures quoted above it will be seen that only Manufacturer No. 4 complied with the requirements, with Manufacturer No. 6 complying with the minimum standards for Grades I and II, but failing to reach the desired standard of 50 % for Grade I. In the case of Manufacturer No. 7 insufficient samples were obtained to provide a reliable test whilst so far as the samples from the retailer were concerned, these were from different sources so that comparison cannot be made.

Various improvements to premises, equipment and vehicles are either pending or in progress and the Manufacturers are definitely co-operating with the Local Authority to the best of their abilities.

The chemical analyses show considerable variation and emphasise the need for a minimum legal fat content to be set up as soon as conditions permit.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT—ROUTINE—PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Houses Disinfected—after Infectious Diseases	13	7	21	22	47	20	19	10	4	4	1	6	174
„ „ at Occupiers' request	1	4	2	3	6	2	3	2	2	2	1	4	32
Blankets Disinfected at Owners' request	—	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Pillows Disinfected at Owners' request	—	—	2	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Mattresses Disinfected at Owners' request	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Baby's Cot Disinfected at Owners' request	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Nurses Uniforms Disinfected	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Bedding (Miscellaneous)—Destroyed	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	4 lots
Overlays „	—	—	1	1	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	2	10
Mattresses „	4	1	5	4	10	6	6	4	5	5	5	10	65
Feather Beds „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	7
Bed Ticks „	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	1	2	—	6	14
Bed Ticks (Covers) „	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Blankets „	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Pillows „	—	—	5	2	4	1	—	—	4	2	—	12	30
Flock Beds „	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Bolsters „	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Sundry Clothing „	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	4 lots
Miscellaneous Articles „	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	4	—	2	11 lots
Vermineous Premises treated	6	6	10	3	11	12	14	10	10	12	11	9	114
Choked Drains cleansed	9	8	3	2	11	2	10	11	15	3	3	13	90

SANITARY SECTION—Details of Inspection.

Number of Inspections made during the year 1949.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.	Grand Totals.
<i>(a) Public Health Act, 1936.</i>														
Inspections following complaints	28	38	47	33	68	60	67	45	67	52	46	41	592	
Inspections <i>re</i> outstanding notices	112	101	93	77	41	103	18	95	101	69	182	58	1050	
Inspections <i>re</i> Verminous premises	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	1	4	5	15	
Inspections <i>re</i> Licensed Premises	—	6	51	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	30	19	109	
Inspections <i>re</i> Moveable Dwellings	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	
Inspections <i>re</i> Offensive Trades	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Inspections <i>re</i> Air-Raid Shelters	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62	—	—	—	62	
													1832	1832
<i>(b) Food and Drugs Act, 1938.</i>														
Abattoir—Meat Inspection	23	20	31	25	33	22	33	28	27	29	34	23	328	
Cottagers' Pigs	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	7	
Unsound Foodstuffs	7	6	7	11	22	13	25	15	12	16	11	6	151	
Bakehouses	6	1	1	1	4	7	23	24	—	1	—	—	68	
Ice-Cream Premises— <i>(a)</i> Manufacturers	2	10	5	5	4	12	6	6	6	4	5	—	65	
<i>(b)</i> Retailers	2	12	4	—	—	19	15	15	2	5	1	—	75	
Cafes and Restaurants	1	3	1	—	—	—	3	8	1	2	—	2	21	
Market Place— <i>(a)</i> Food Stalls	12	24	10	23	7	16	15	25	20	13	13	27	205	
<i>(b)</i> Mobile Canteens	2	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	
Food Shops and Warehouses	1	7	4	—	4	33	46	15	11	11	2	24	158	
Fish and Chip Shops	11	1	2	2	1	1	3	—	6	—	—	—	27	
Mobile Fish and Chip Vans	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
													1114	2946

SANITARY SECTION—Details of Inspection—continued.

Number of Inspections made during the year 1949.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.	Grand Totals.
<i>(c) Milk and Dairies Regulations 1926-1946.</i>														
Cowsheds and Dairies.....	5	3	31	15	3	5	10	2	1	3	7	9	94	
Heat Treatment Plant	5	3	4	3	3	5	4	2	1	3	3	3	39	
Milk Shops	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	40	
													173	3119
<i>(d) Housing Act, 1936.</i>														
Investigations re Overcrowding	10	7	11	11	16	10	19	29	2	5	10	3	133	
Houses in Clearance Areas	—	—	3	4	—	15	4	19	2	5	—	—	52	
Individual Unfit Houses—Part II, Housing Act, 1936.....	13	21	—	—	24	9	3	12	—	6	9	28	125	
Proposed re-lettings—Slum Clearance Areas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5	
Squatters' Hutments	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	
													320	3439
<i>(e) Factories Act, 1937.</i>														
Factories—(a) Mechanical Power	6	6	1	8	1	29	27	27	1	3	3	1	113	
(b) No Mechanical Power	1	2	4	5	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	17	
													130	3569
<i>(f) Shops Acts, 1934-1936.</i>														
Inspection of Premises	8	17	8	38	17	53	14	16	22	10	2	26	231	
														3800
<i>(g) Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act.</i>														
Investigations made	43	36	120	128	58	104	32	11	27	23	25	18	625	
														4425
<i>(h) Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.</i>														
Investigations made	9	4	3	5	4	—	15	5	12	—	2	6	65*	
Premises treated	9	3	4	5	4	—	13	5	12	13	—	—	68	
No. of Visits for the purpose of treatment	26	10	13	21	13	—	41	30	50	55	—	—	259*	
No. of rats recovered	1	17	3	1	3	—	6	2	2	3	—	—	38	
No. of mice recovered	74	2	7	15	11	—	11	16	25	17	—	—	178	
													324*	4749

<i>(i) Miscellaneous.</i>													
Drainage Inspections	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
No. of visits in connection with water samples ...	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	45
ditto. Milk samples	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	39
ditto. Ice-Cream samples	4	—	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	46
Miscellaneous inspections	2	8	4	4	5	5	23	1	13	6	23	3	92
Interviews	14	17	21	24	24	7	20	27	2	6	17	23	201
													424
<i>(j) Sampling.</i>													
Milk—Bacteriological	10	12	12	12	12	12	12	10	12	10	12	4	128
Chemical	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sterile Bottles	6	—	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	12	6	72
Water—Bacteriological	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	—	4	4	4	4	45
Chemical	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ice-Cream—Bacteriological	4	—	4	4	4	4	5	4	6	4	4	—	42
Chemical	—	—	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	—	—	—	25
													313
													5486

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS' OF HEALTH—1949.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London).	148 Smaller Towns (Resi- dent Popln. 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrat- ive County.
BIRTHS.				
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
Live Births	16.7(a)	18.7	18.0	18.5
Still Births	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40	0.37
DEATHS.				
All Causes	11.7(a)	12.5	11.6	12.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52
Influenza	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59
NOTIFICATIONS (corrected).				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Scarlet fever	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Food poisoning	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19
DEATHS.				
RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.				
All causes under 1 year of age	32(b)	37	30	29
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ..	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7
NOTIFICATIONS (corrected).				
RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL (LIVE AND STILL) BIRTHS.				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82
MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.				
International List No. and cause.	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.		Rates per million women aged 15-44.	
140. Abortion with sepsis	0.11		8	
141. Abortion without sepsis ..	0.05		4	
147. Puerperal infections	0.11		—	
142-146, 148-150. Other Maternal Causes.	0.71		—	

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.



