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Contributors

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Longbenton Urban District Council.

County of Northumberland.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

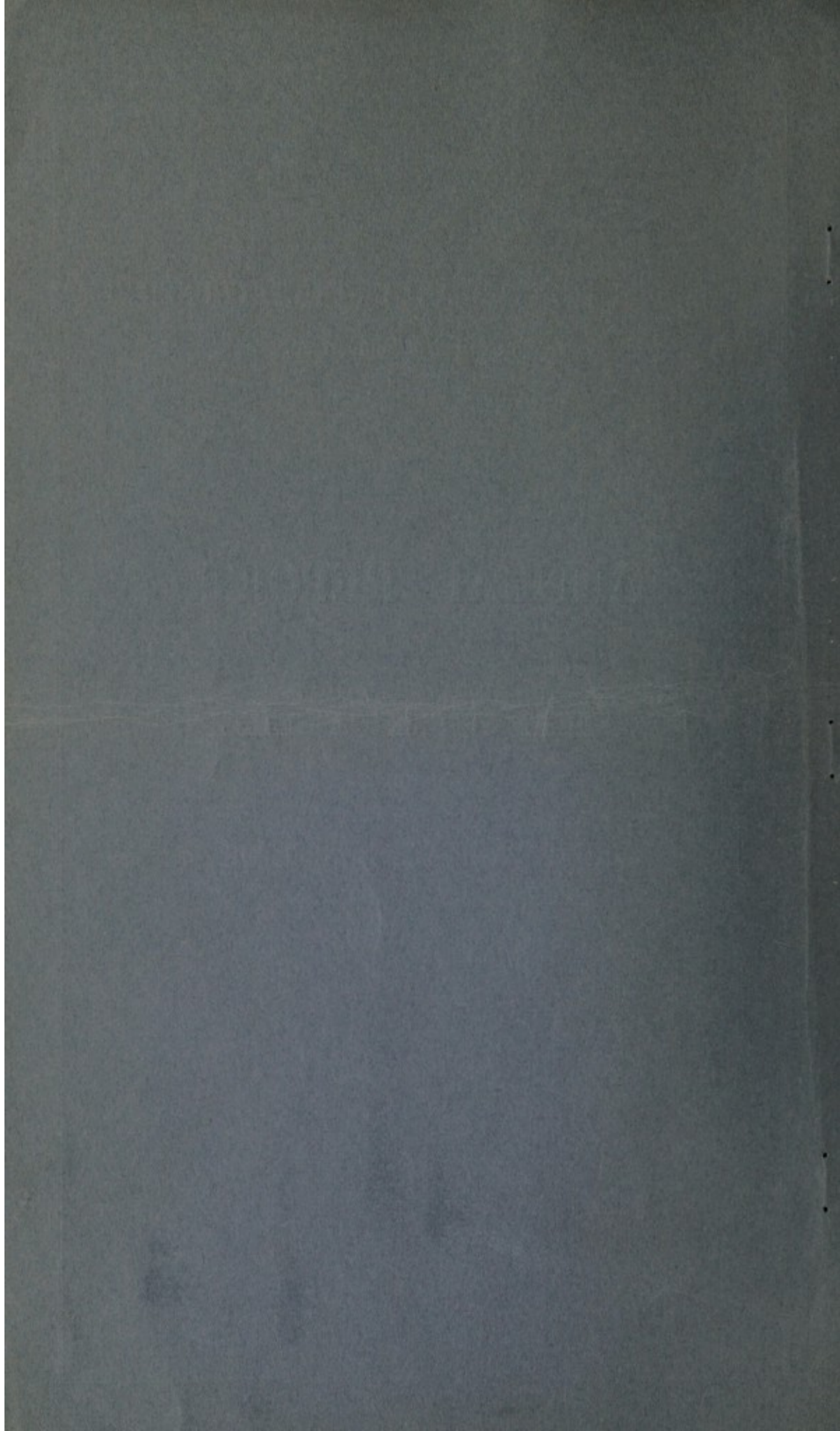
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1939.





OFFICERS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE.	OFFICER.	QUALIFICATIONS.
Medical Officer of Health.	William Cunningham.	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy M.O.H.	Theodore Craig.	M.B., Ch.B.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.	William N. Lockey.	M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Meat & Food Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I., SANITARY SCIENCE R.S.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector.	Frederick Spencer.	A.R. San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.B.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM

For the year ending 31st. December. 1939.

To the Chairman & Members of the
LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1939 in accordance with Circular 1961 issued by the Ministry of Health. The Minister has considered that it is desirable that the reports should be abridged during the period of the war, and while nothing of importance should be omitted, the matters should be dealt with as briefly as possible. The report follows the details set out in Circulars 1961 and 2067.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There has been a considerable decrease in the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified. SCARLET FEVER has been reduced from 76 in 1938 to 53 in 1939, and DYPHTHERIA from 112 to 61. The total cases notified are 154 which includes 26 cases of Measles, which until the outbreak of the war was not a notifiable disease in this area.

BIRTH RATES and DEATH RATES. Both the Birth Rate and Death Rate show a considerable decrease, while the figures for the population calculated at mid-year 1939 shows an increase of 180.

MILK. None of the samples taken during the year shewed B. Tuberculosis present. The supply of milk during 1939 was satisfactorily maintained throughout the whole year.

WAR CONDITIONS. No difficult problems in Public Health arose as a result of war conditions in 1939. Close co-operation is maintained by the Military Medical Services and this department.

STAFF. One member of the clerical staff has joined H.M. Forces during the year.

CIVIL DEFENCE SERVICES. This department has had to work at the fullest possible pressure to cope with the extra work imposed by civil defence needs.

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their sympathetic consideration at all times and Mr. Lockey the Chief Sanitary Inspector and all the staff for their unfailing loyalty and energetic work. Despite the extra toil imposed by the war the routine work of the department has not been allowed to suffer.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

W. CUNNINGHAM.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 6,243
 Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population,
 mid - 1939..... 21,690
 Number of inhabited Houses (end of 1939) according to
 Rate Book..... 6,452
 Rateable Value..... £108,764
 Sum represented by a Penny Rate..... £410

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. The Chief Industry is coal mining, with the exception of the residential area of Benton & Forest Hall.

UNEMPLOYMENT. It has not been possible to get the exact figures for the Longbenton Area as the boundaries of the Local Office Areas of the Ministry of Labour do not coincide with that of the Longbenton Council. The figures for Shiremoor and Dudley must therefore be treated as approximate. The former including West Allotment

LOCAL OFFICE AREA.

INSURED POPULATION JULY, 1939.

	Men over 18	Boys 16- 17	Boys 14 -15	Women over 18	Girls 16 -17	Girls 14 -15	TOTAL.
SHIREMOOR.	3881	196	146	194	77	46	4540 .
WEST MOOR.	1719	93	96	150	47	65	2170
DUDLEY.	approx. 1200			approx 100			Approx. 1300

UNEMPLOYED
DECEMBER 1939.

LOCAL OFFICE. (AREA).	Men over 18	Boys 16-17	Boys 14-15	Women over 18	Girls 16-17	Girls 14-15	TOTAL.
SHIREMOOR.	350	4	2	65	20	9	452
WEST MOOR.	315	8	2	63	19	8	415
DUDLEY.	105	2	-	20	6	5	138

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Male.	Female.	TOTAL.
Live Births - Legitimate	159	157	316
Illegitimate.....	7	3	10
Total Live Births.....	166	160	326
Still Births. Legitimate.....	9	7	16
Illegitimate.....	1	1	2
Total Still Births.....	9	8	17
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.....	15.03		
Still Births per 1,000 Live, & Still Births.....			
Deaths.....	114	111	225
Death Rate.			

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.10.37.

CORRECTED DEATH RATE.

The corrected death rate (Comparability factor 1.07) 11.09

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births)
Puerperal Sepsis.....	Nil	0.00
Other Puerperal Causes.....	Nil	0.00
Total.	Nil	0.00

Deaths of Infants.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total.	9	8	17
Legitimate.	8	7	15
Illegitimate.	1	1	2

Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births.....	51.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births.....	45.87
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births.	117.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	23
" Measles. (all ages).....	--
" Whooping Cough. (all ages).....	1
" Diarrhoea. (under 2 years of age).....	1

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE & ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1939.

(The mortality rates for England & Wales refer to the whole population)

	Rate per 1,000 Population.		ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.									Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Enteric Fever.	Smallpox.	Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years.	Total deaths under 1 year.	
England and Wales.	15.0	0.59	12.1	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.21	0.00	0.00	4.6	50	
Longbenton(1938)	17.20	1.06	13.42	0.00	0.00	0.093	0.32	0.093	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.27	
" (1939)	15.03	0.78	11.07	0.00	0.00	0.045	0.18	0.13	0.00	0.00	3.05	51.9	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN LONGBENTON AREA. 1939.

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH.</u>	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>
All causes.....	114	111
1. Typhoid & Para Typhoid.....	-	-
2. Measles.....	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.....	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.....	1	-
5. Diphtheria.....	2	2
6. Influenza.....	2	1
7. Encephalitis Lethargica.....	-	-
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	-	-
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	5	5
10. Other Tuberculosis.....	-	1
11. Syphilis.....	-	-
12. General Paralysis of the Insane. (Tabes Dorsalis)	-	-
13. Cancer.....	9	14
14. Diabetes.....	1	1
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.....	7	7
16. Heart Disease.....	26	23
17. Aneurysm.....	-	1
18. Other circulatory diseases.....	10	10
19. Bronchitis.....	-	4
20. Pneumonia (all forms).....	1	3
21. Other respiratory diseases.....	2	-
22. Peptic Ulcer.....	3	-
23. Diarrhoea (under 2 years.).....	1	1
24. Appendicitis.....	1	2
25. Cirrhosis of Liver.....	-	-
26. Other diseases of the liver.....	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases.....	4	-
28. Acute & Chronic Nephritis.....	5	7
29. Puerperal Sepsis.....	-	-
30. Other Puerperal Causes.....	-	-
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.....	8	5
32. Senility.....	2	4
33. Suicide.....	-	3
34. Other Violence.....	12	4
35. Other Defined Diseases.....	11	11
36. Ill-defined diseases or not known.	2	2

Special causes (included in No. 35) -

Smallpox. Polio-myelitis. Polio-encephalitis.

There is no evidence of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

I have no evidence, statistical or otherwise, that conditions of occupation, environment, or unemployment have exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

SECTION B.

1. (i) Public Health Officials: see page 2.

(ii) a. Laboratory facilities remain the same as in former years.

b. Ambulance services. This service remains the same as last year.

c. Nursing in the home is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.

d. The only treatment centre controlled by this Authority is the San Ray Clinic, which continues to do good work.

e. There are no hospitals in the area with the exception of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Scaffold Hill, administered by the Earsdon Joint Hospital Board, of which Board this Council is a Constituent member.

Maternity & Child Welfare Service. This service is controlled by the County Council.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. Water Supply.

(i) No alteration has been made in the source of water supply.

(ii) Drainage & Sewage. Conditions remain the same.

2. Rivers & Streams.- No official action has been necessary.

3. (i) There are still some 200 houses in the area with ash-closets, all but some 31 are in connection with Clearance Areas, the remaining being isolated from, or below the level of our sewers.

(ii) Public Cleansing - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(iv) Shops & Offices - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(v) Camping Sites - No applications have been made for camping sites during 1939, and no camping sites exist in the area.

(vi) Smoke abatement. No official action has been necessary.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools. - There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the area.

(viii) Eradication of the Bed Bug.- See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

- (4) Schools. The schools in the area are each provided with a sufficient and suitable water supply from the mains supply. Periodically inspections are made to all schools.

SECTION D.

HOUSING. Omitted.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- a. Milk Supply - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- b. Meat & other Foods. See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- c. Adulteration. This service is administered by the County Council.
- d. Chemical & Bacteriological Examination of Food. - Milk is the only food of which samples are taken for Bacteriological Examination by this Authority. These samples are examined in the County Laboratory, Newburn.
- e. Nutrition. - No special educative effort was made in the nature of lectures, film, etc.
- f. Shellfish. - (Molluscan) - There are no shellfish beds or layings in this area. Shellfish is rarely sold in this area.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The following table gives the numbers and the age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year:-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1939.

DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES.														Hos- pital	Dent.
	Age Group.															
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over			
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Scarlet Fever.	53	-	1	3	1	3	20	14	6	4	1	-	-	40		
Diphtheria.	61	-	-	3	4	7	18	11	6	10	1	1	-	61		
Enteric Fever (Including Para- Typhoid)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2		
Puerperal Pyrexia.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-		
Pneumonia.	11	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	1	2	1	-		
Erysipelas.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	2	-		
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1		
Dysentery.	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3		
Measles.	6	1	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Whooping Cough.	7	1	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Food Poisoning.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		

SECTION F. (contd)

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH. These diseases are now notifiable in this district, under the Measles & Whooping Cough Regulations 1939.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. There were no cases of Ophthalmia neonatorum.

TUBERCULOSIS. No action was necessary under the Public Health (Tuberculosis Regulations), 1925, with regard to persons employed in the milk trade, nor in the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1939.

AGE PERIODS.	CASES NOTIFIED.				DEATHS.			
	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.		PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
YEARS.								
Under 1.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5.....	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
5 to 15.....	2	-	3	1	2	-	-	-
15 to 25.....	3	-	2	1	3	-	-	-
25 to 35.....	1	1	1	1	1	3	-	-
35 to 45.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55.....	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
55 to 65.....	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 upwards.....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS.	6	4	3	3	4	5	-	1

The notification of cases of Tuberculosis in the area is apparently satisfactory, and no action has been necessary in any case of neglect or refusal to notify.

PARTICULARS OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER
at 31st. December. 1939.

	PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			TOTAL PULMONARY & NON-PULMONARY.
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	TOTAL
Cases on Register Jan. 1st. 1939.	54	59	113	24	15	39	152
New Cases.	6	4	10	3	3	6	16
Cases Removed,	6	8	14	-	1	1	15
On Register 31st. Dec. 1939	54	55	109	27	17	44	153

Longbenton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

WILLIAM N. LOCKEY.

for the year ending 31st. December 1939.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Longbenton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman & Members,

In accordance with Circulars 1961 and 2067 of the Ministry of Health, I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1939.

The supervision of the collection and disposal of house refuse was transferred to the Health Department as from 1st. April 1939.

HOUSING. It has not been thought advisable to produce the whole of the statement showing the work done under the Housing and Public Health Acts. Two hundred and nine houses were built by the local authority with state assistance and seventy six by other bodies or persons, making a total of two hundred and eighty nine (289) new houses.

Re-housing has taken place during the year from 119 houses included in 9 areas. It was anticipated that more rehousing would have taken place but the scheme were closed down with the commencement of hostilities. There are 10 areas which were confirmed as Clearance Areas in 1938 comprising of 303 houses from which it will not be possible to carry out rehousing other than sporadic cases where other Council Houses have been vacated. These houses are getting progressively worse as time goes on, as the owners cannot be requested to do other than the only very essential repairs, such as defective roofs etc.,.

ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG. It has been possible to deal with all cases found by informal action. During the rehousing from the Clearance Areas the furniture of each tenant has been treated with an insecticide (Zaldecide) before being moved into the new house. None of the infestations were found to be heavy but the degree of treatment was "pro-rata" with the infestation.

COLLECTION & DISPOSAL OF HOUSE & TRADE REFUSE.

The number of new houses in the area have added a further strain on the services. These houses being blocks of two and four, with small front gardens, take considerably more time to scavenge than the old houses which have been demolished.

The amount of refuse collected in the mining parts of the district is always high, especially during the winter time. In the first few months of the war however it was found that the amount was very much increased over the whole of the area. This may have been due to people staying at home more during the black-out, and also to the hour of retirement being delayed. We have not yet been able to give a bi-weekly collection in the mining parts of the district, which is essential.

In October 1939 a scheme was put forward for the collection of Waste Paper, while the results were slow at the beginning it was well in force by the first months of 1940.

TIPS. Our equipment still includes five horses and carts and necessitates having tips in various parts of the district. It was found necessary to engage more labour on the tips in order to give a better measure of control.

MEAT INSPECTION.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS 1924.

The following is a list of the number of animals slaughtered in the area during the year, together with the percentage affected with disease.

CARCASSES INSPECTED & CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows.	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed.	658	8	27	-	449
" inspected.	658	8	27	2042	449
All Diseases excepting Tuberculosis					
Whole carcass condemned.	-	-	3	-	-
Carcasses of which some parts were condemned.	36	1	2	-	1
Percent of number inspected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	5.4	12.5	7.4	-	0.2
<u>Tuberculosis only.-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	1	-	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part of the organs were condemned.	59	-	-	-	13
Percentage of the number - inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	9.2	-	-	-	2.3

The following is a list of the total meat surrendered during the year:-

<u>BEASTS.</u>	<u>CALVES.</u>	<u>PIGS</u>	<u>SHEEP.</u>
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	Braxy. 35 lbs.
Bovine. T.B. 2146	Umbilical	Tuberculosis 415	
Cirrhosis. 207	Pyæmia. 100	Abscesses. 11	
30	Bruised. 5		
Liver Fluke. 57	105	426	
Abscesses. 183			
Bruised. 94			
Phæmonia. 12			
2732			

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES. There are nine slaughter-houses in the area, all in good structural condition. Six have been in regular use during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT. The section of the Act which requires the stunning of sheep is adopted in the area. No difficulty has been found in the operation of this section.

1.

MILK & DAIRIES ORDER 1926. - The following is a summary of the particulars in the Milk & Dairies Register at the 31st. December, 1939.

Number of persons registered as Cow Keepers.	17
Number of premises registered as Cow-sheds.	22
Number of Cows kept on registered premises (approximately)	410
Number of Cow-keepers retailing Milk.	16
Number of persons registered as Dairymen in the area.	19
Number of Dairymen outside the area retailing in the area.	19
Number of premises registered as Dairies.	19
Number of persons registered as retail purveyors.	65

2.

MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATION ORDER, 1936. - The following are particulars of Licences granted under the above Order:-

Premises Licensed for Storage & Sale of T.T. Milk.	1
Premises Licensed for Storage & Sale of Pasteurised Milk.	6
Supplementary Licences to retail T.T. Milk.	2
Supplementary Licences to retail Pasteurised Milk.	1
Supplementary Licences to retail Accredited Milk.	1
Accredited Producers.	3

3.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK. Samples of Milk from each supply were submitted to the County Laboratory for Bacteriological examination and Biological Test.

MILK PRODUCED IN THE LONGBENTON AREA.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	TOTAL.	%
Methylene Blue Test.	14	6	20	70
B. Coli.	14	6	20	70
All respects (1939)	13	7	20	65
All respects (1938)	22	18	40	55

MILK PRODUCED OUTSIDE THE LONGBENTON AREA.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	%
Methylene Blue Test.	6	7	13	46.1
B. Coli.	7	6	13	53.8
All respects. (1939)	4	9	13	30.7
All respects. (1938)	7	20	27	25.9

GRADED MILK.

EXAMINATION.	SATISFACTORY.	UNSATISFACTORY.	TOTAL.	%.
Pasteurised:-				
Total Bacterial Count.....	3	-	3	100
Tuberculin Tested.-				
Methylene Blue Test	1	1	2	50
B. Coli.....	-	2	2	-
Accredited.-				
Methylene Blue Test.	1	1	2	50
B. Coli.....				
All respects.(1939)	4	3	7	53.8
All respects.(1938)	7	6	13	53.8

TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN.

EXAMINATION.	SATISFACTORY.	UNSATISFACTORY.	TOTAL.	%.
Total Bacterial Count.	3	-	3	100
Methylene Blue Test.	22	15	36	59.4
B. Coli.	22	15	36	59.4
All respects.(1939)	21	19	40	52.5
All respects.(1938)	36	44	80	45

BIOLOGICAL TEST. Thirty six samples were submitted for Biological Test, and all were certified as "B. Tuberculosis not found"

Yours faithfully,

W.N. LOCKEY.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

