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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 1940.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM

for the year ending 31st. December 1940.

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. 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.J.B

to the Chairman and Members of the

LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1940 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.

For the second year in succession there has been a decrease in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified, the former being reduced from 53 in 1939 to 18 and the latter from 61 to 39. The total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified was 496, of which 378 were Measles and 28 Whooping Cough. These diseases were not notifiable in this area previous to the outbreak of hostilities.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

Arrangements were prepared in the latter part of the year to carry out a large scale immunisation scheme for the protection of children attending schools. The first session of the scheme was held in December - the total number of children to complete the course being 1,847, in early 1941. A supplementary scheme will be completed in June, 1941.

BIRTH RATES & DEATH RATES.

There is no outstanding difference in the Birth Rates and Death Rates as compared with the year 1939, both showing a slight increase. The population figure calculated mid-year 1940 shows a decrease of 650.

MILK.

The routine sampling of milk for bacteriological examination shows that the milk produced in the area showed 72% satisfactory to the examination for B.Coli, while samples produced outside the area showed 33.3% satisfactory.

The chemical examination, Methylene Blue Test, showed 41.8% satisfactory within the area and only 8.3% satisfactory outside the area. This unsatisfactory percentage of samples outside the area may be accounted for by the fact that practically all the milk from outside is from mixed bulk supplies. The Medical Officers of Health of the districts in which the unsatisfactory milk was produced were notified in each case.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Twenty one of the above samples were submitted for biological test, two of which were certified as having B.Tuberculosis present. Upon receiving information from this office the County Medical Officer took the necessary action and had the affected cows slaughtered.

WAR CONDITIONS.

No difficult problems in Public Health arose as a result of war conditions in 1940. Close co-operation is maintained by the Military Medical Service and this department.

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 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).....	6,843
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1940....	21,030
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Book.....	6,620
Rateable Value.....	£113,865
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£447

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The chief industry is coal mining, with the exception of the residential area of Benton and Forest Hall.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births - Legitimate.....	179	157	336
Illegitimate.....	8	6	14
Total Live Births.....	187	163	350
Still Births - Legitimate.....	6	6	12
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-
Total Still Births.....	6	6	12
Birth Rate per 1,000 population.....			15.97
Still Births per 1,000 Live & Still Births.....			33.05

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths.....	134	101	235

Death Rate.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population. 11.12

CORRECTED DEATH RATE.

The corrected death rate (Comparability factor 1.07) 11.89

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births)
Puerperal Sepsis.....	nil	0.00
Other Maternal Causes.....	1	2.76
Total.....	1	2.76

Deaths of Infants.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total.....	22	8	30
Legitimate.....	22	7	29
Illegitimate.....	-	1	1

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

All infants per 1,000 Live Births.....	85.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births.....	82.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births.....	71.4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	31
" " Measles (all ages).....	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages).....	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	3

	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 & Wales 1940.	14.6	0.55	14.3	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.06	0.32	0.09	0.00	4.6	55
Longbenton 1940.	15.97	0.57	11.89	0.00	0.00	0.000	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.00	8.57	85.7
Longbenton 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 LONGBRIDGE AREA, 1940.

	<u>CAUSES OF DEATH.</u>	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>
All Causes.....		134	101
1.	Typhoid & Para.Typhoid.....	-	-
2.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	1	-
3.	Scarlet Fever.....	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough.....	-	-
5.	Diphtheria.....	2	-
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	4	4
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	2	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases.....	-	-
9.	Influenza.....	2	-
10.	Measles.....	-	-
11.	Acute polio-myelitis & polio-encephalitis.....	-	-
12.	Acute Inf. encephalitis.....	-	-
13.	Cancer of B.Cav. & oesoph. (M) uterus (F).....	2	2
14.	Cancer of stomach & duodenum.....	4	4
15.	Cancer of breast.....	-	3
16.	Cancer of all other sites.....	7	9
17.	Diabetes.....	1	-
18.	Intra-cran. vasc. lesions.....	12	10
19.	Heart Disease.....	30	26
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system.....	-	1
21.	Bronchitis.....	11	9
22.	Pneumonia.....	8	4
23.	Other respiratory diseases.....	4	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	-	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	2	1
26.	Appendicitis.....	-	-
27.	Other digestive diseases.....	2	1
28.	Nephritis.....	5	2
29.	Puer. & post-abortion. sepsis.....	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes.....	-	1
31.	Premature Birth.....	2	-
32.	Con. Mal. birth inj. infant. dis.....	2	5
33.	Suicide.....	-	1
34.	Road Traffic Accident.....	3	2
35.	Other violent causes.....	10	1
36.	All other causes.....	12	14

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 1.
 - (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 Sun 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 and 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 and Streams.
 - (i) No official action has been necessary.
3. Closet accommodation.
 - (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 and Offices. - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
 - (v) Camping Sites - No applications have been made for camping sites during 1940, 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 AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- a. Milk Supply. See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- b. Meat and 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, films 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 1940.

	NUMBER OF CASES.																
	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	Pos pit al	Deaths.		
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Scarlet Fever	18	-	1	3	-	6	3	3	1	1	-	-	-	16	-		
Diphtheria	39	-	2	-	2	1	18	7	4	4	1	-	-	39	2		
Enteric Fever incl. Para- Typhoid.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Puer. Pyrexia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-		
Pneumonia	15	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	4	2	3	1	-	-		
Erysipelas	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	1	-		
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-		
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-		
Measles	378	5	31	48	54	40	175	11	5	5	4	-	-	-	-		
Whooping Cough	28	1	-	3	2	3	18	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Food Poison	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-		
Ophthalmia Neon.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Total	496	8	35	54	59	51	216	22	12	19	10	8	2	59	2		

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SECTION F. (Cont).

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

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. There was one case 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 1940.

Age Groups.	CASES NOTIFIED.				DEATHS.			
	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	-
15 - 25	5	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	7	6	1	-	4	5	2	-

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 1940.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			TOTAL PULMONARY & NON-PULMONARY.
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	TOTAL.
Cases on Register Jan.1st.1940.	54	55	109	27	17	44	153
New Cases.	7	8	15	1	-	1	16
Cases Removed.	2	1	3	3	-	3	6
On Register 31st.Dec.1940.	59	62	121	25	17	42	163

LONGENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

WILLIAM N. LOCKEY.

for the year ended 31st. December 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the
LONGENTON 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 1940.

HOUSING. During the year very little, other than very necessitous matters in the way of housing have been dealt with, owing to the great difficulty in having work completed. One housing scheme in course of completion at the outbreak of war was completed - 30 families being re-housed from five separate clearance areas. There are still 10 areas which were confirmed as clearance areas in 1938 comprising 303 houses for which new houses have not yet been provided. Whenever ordinary council houses have become vacated, tenants from the worst houses in the clearance areas have been given tenancy. As stated in last year's report, these houses are getting progressively worse as time goes on but efforts are being repeatedly made to have the very essential repairs, such as defective roofs, carried out.

ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG. All cases of bed bug infestations have been dealt with without having to resort to formal action. Our previous arrangement of treating the furniture prior to re-housing from clearance areas was carried out. None of the infestations were found to be heavy and the degree of treatment was pro rata with the infestation.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE. The collection of house and trade refuse is carried out under the supervision of this department - our present equipment being two S & D Freighters of the low loading type fitted with covers for dustless loading and five horses and carts. During the period of the year when the refuse is heavy this equipment has been augmented by hired vehicles which, owing to their not being properly designed for the purpose of collection of house refuse, are not so efficient. The class of fuel used by residents in the mining districts is of very inferior quality and during the heavy periods collections must be made at least twice per week, otherwise the ash bins are full to overflowing.

TRADE REFUSE. As a considerable part of trade refuse was suitable for salvage, it was decided early in the year to forgo the charge for the removal of trade refuse because, otherwise, traders disposed of paper by burning.

SALVAGE. As mentioned in last year's report, a scheme was inaugurated for the collection of waste paper in October 1939 - this service was later made part of the duties of Local Authorities of over 5,000 population. A scheme was commenced in March for the collection of Kitchen Waste for pig feeding. As there is a considerable pig population in the district we were able to dispose of all that could be collected. The organising of the salvage in connection with the work of scavenging has caused definite strain on our equipment and it has been with the greatest difficulty that we have been able to meet the requirements of the district.

TIPS. We are now tipping in four controlled tips - these are in very good order, a fact which may have been somewhat contributed to by the keeping out of paper, empty tins etc., from the refuse.

I beg to append below, statistics relating to the scavenging services for the year ended 31st. March, 1941. Figures are based on the estimated population mid-1940 of 21,030 and 6,620 houses in the area.

House refuse only:-

Estimated quantity removed.....	14,695 Tons.
Approximate average weight per house.....	2.3 Tons.
Average quantity per house.....	5.375 Cub.yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day.....	38 Cwts.

Total cost of collection.....	£4,470
Cost of Disposal.....	360
Payment for Hayes Factory.....	250
Part wages of men in H.M.Forces.....	173

Total Scavenging Costs..... £5,253

Less payment for scavenging of Army Camps	£218	
" profit on Salvage.....	519	737

£ 4,516

	s.	d.
Cost per house.....	13-	7.4
Cost per head population.....	4-	3.5
Cost on rates in the £.....	-	10.1

Salvage:-

Total material sold.....	£899-	18-	2
Costs other than with normal scavenging.....	380-	8-	0
	£519-	10-	2

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. The record of the work being done under this heading is being kept in the office, but, under present circumstances is not being produced. Representations were made during the year to have two water courses cleaned out with a view, not only to abating nuisances, but also to improve the adjoining land for agricultural purposes.

SHOPS AND OFFICES. Many visits were made to shops in the area checking up the temperature etc., owing to the black-out arrangements and enemy action, many shops have had their windows shuttered and now require to use the artificial light in order to meet with the lighting requirements.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS 1924. During January all slaughtering in private slaughter houses was stopped by an order of the Ministry of Food. Slaughtering was, therefore, carried out in government controlled slaughter houses and the meat allocated to the local butcher's pool from where it was further allocated to the retailers pro rata with the number of registrations held by each. It was necessary to institute a careful watch on the process at the beginning, not because of any diseased meat being forwarded, but because the meat was being handled by persons unused to the trade and unsuitable transport was being used. Within a very short time we were able to educate the personnel upon the necessity for careful handling etc., of the meat.

1. MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER 1926. The following is a summary of the particulars in the Milk and Dairies Register at the 31st. December, 1940.

Number of persons registered as Cow Keepers.	18
Number of premises registered as Cow-Sheds.	23
Number of cows kept on registered premises (approximately)	430
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.	20
Number of persons registered as Retail Purveyors.	65

2. MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATION ORDER. 1936. The following are particulars of Licenses 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 Licenses to retail T.T.Milk.	2
Supplementary Licenses to retail Pasteurised Milk.	1
Supplementary Licenses 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 LONGBRINTON AREA.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	Satis.
Methylene Blue Test.	10	12	22	41.8
B. Coli.	16	6	22	72.7
All Respects (1940)	10	12	22	41.8
" (1939)	13	7	20	65.

MILK PRODUCED OUTSIDE THE LONGBRINTON AREA.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	Satis.
Methylene Blue Test.	1	11	12	8.3
B. Coli.	4	8	12	33.3
All respects (1940).	1	11	12	8.3
" (1939).	4	9	13	30.7

GRAD'D MILK.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	Satis.
Pasteurised.				
Total Bacterial Count.	3	2	5	60.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN.

EXAMINATION.	SATISFACTORY.	UNSATISFACTORY.	TOTAL.	Satis.
Total Bacterial Count.	3	2	5	60.
Methylene Blue Test.	11	23	34	32.3
E. Coli.	20	14	34	58.8
All respects (1940).	12	22	34	35.2
" (1939).	21	19	40	52.5

BIOLOGICAL TEST.

Twenty one samples were submitted for Biological Test, two of which were certified as "B. Tuberculosis present".

Yours faithfully,

W. N. Lockey.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.