

[Report 1941] / Medical Officer of Health, Longbenton U.D.C.

Contributors

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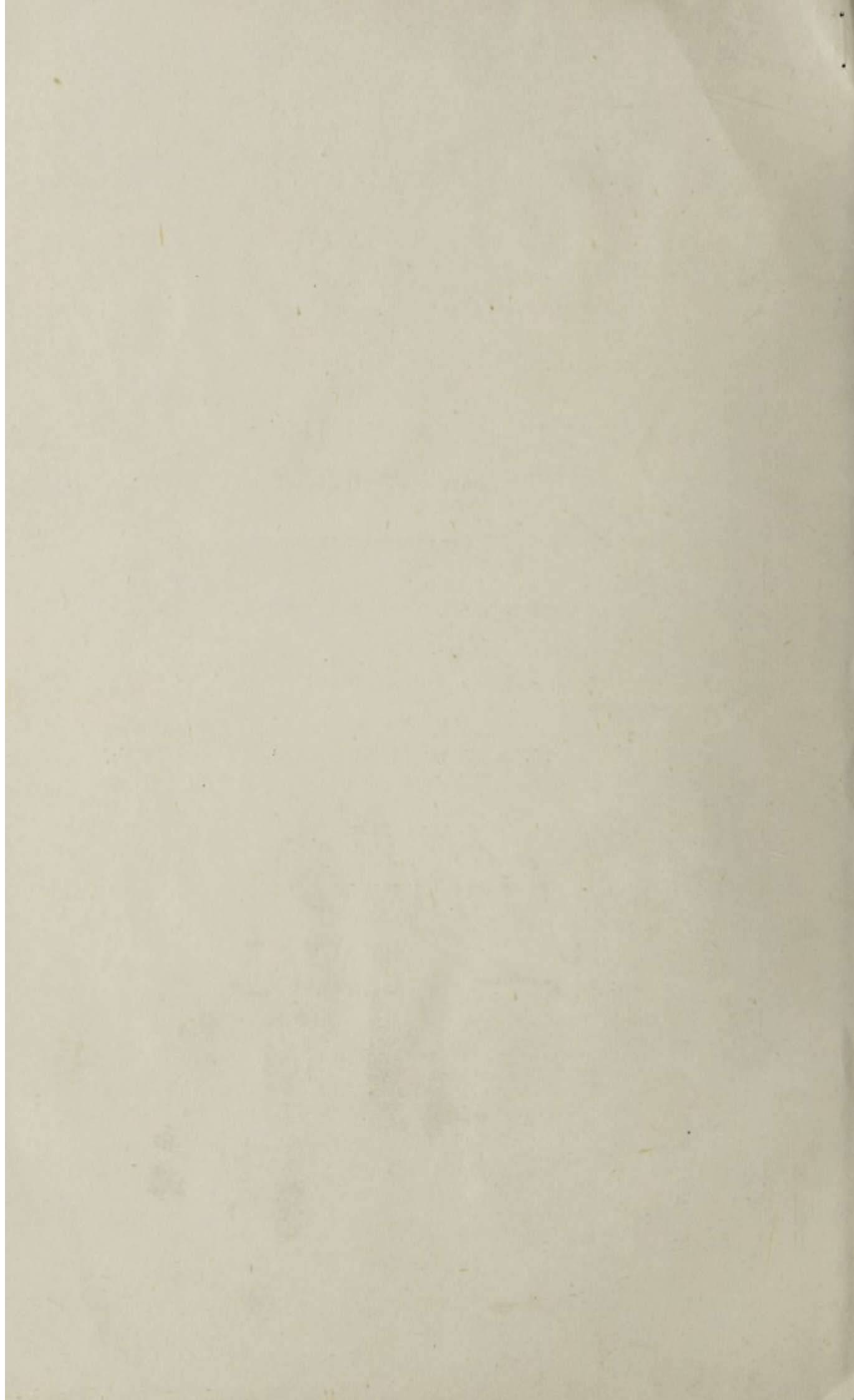
LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

County of Northumberland.

ANNUAL REPORT.

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

for the year
1941.



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM.

for the year ending 31st. December 1941.

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. (Joined Navy 13.3.41).	Frederick Spencer.	A.R.San.I., M.S.L.A., Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.J.B.
Temporary Sanitary Inspector. (commenced 13.10.41).	William S. Bruce.	A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I., & S.I.J.B. Meat & Food R.S.I.

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

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1941 in accordance with Circulars issued by the Ministry of Health. The Minister has considered 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.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever. There is an increase in the number of cases in 1941 over 1940 of 28 against 18.

Diphtheria. There was a sharp rise in the cases of Diphtheria, 77 in 1941 against 39 in 1940. You will observe from the age groups in Section D., the highest instance was in the age groups between 5 and 10. There was only one death from Diphtheria - a child 5 years of age, not immunised.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. This Authority is responsible for the protection of children of school age, whilst the County is responsible for those of pre-school age. During 1941 close co-operation was kept between headmasters, head mistresses, health visitors and interested persons. The usual pamphlets were distributed to the pupils at schools, talks were given to the children and a newspaper campaign was conducted. Altogether, during the year, 1,699 children of school age were given two doses of the protective substance known as A.P.T. This mass immunisation will be continued with large drives twice yearly. The total percentage of school children protected to date shows an extremely satisfactory figure.

BIRTH RATES & DEATH RATES.

There is no outstanding difference in the Birth Rate and Death Rate as compared with the year 1940, both showing a slight decrease. The population figure calculated mid-year 1941 shows an increase of 430 compared with 1940.

MILK.

The routine sampling of milk for bacteriological examination gives evidence that the milk produced in the area showed 89% satisfactory to the examination for B.Coli, while samples produced outside the area showed 63.3% satisfactory. The chemical examination, Methylene Blue Test, showed 75% satisfactory within the area but none 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 IN MILK.

Thirty one of the above samples were submitted for biological test, three 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 1941. Close co-operation is maintained by the Military Medical Service and this Department.

SPRITION.

There was no evidence of mal-nutrition in this area 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 extra tasks 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. CUMMINGHAM.

SECTION.A.

STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE YEAR.

Area (in acres).....	6,843
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1941.....	21,460
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to Rate Book.....	6,583
Rateable Value.....	£113,982
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	2446

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

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

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births - Legitimate.....	173	163	336
Illegitimate.....	4	4	8
Total Live Births.....	177	167	344
Still Births - Legitimate.....	8	3	11
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-
Total Still Births.....	8	3	11
Birth Rate per 1,000 population.....			15.65
Still Births per 1,000 Live & Still Births.....			30.98

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths.....	134	114	248
Death Rate..			

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population. 11.56

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births.)
Puerperal Sepsis.....	nil	0.00
Other Maternal Causes.....	1	2.77
Total.....	1	2.77

Deaths of Infants.

	Male.	Female.	Total
Total.....	13	8	21
Legitimate.....	12	8	20
Illegitimate....	1	-	1

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

All infants per 1,000 Live Births.....	60.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births.....	57.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births.....	125.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	44
" " Measles (all ages).....	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages).....	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	5

	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 1941.	14.2	0.51	12.9	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.1	59
Longbenton 1941.	15.65	0.51	11.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.046	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.45	60.6
Longbenton 1940.	15.97	0.57	11.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.57	85.7

CAUSES OF DEATH IN LONGBENTON AREA. 1941.

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH.</u>		<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>
All Causes.....		134	114
1.	Typhoid & Para.Typhoid.....	-	-
2.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	1	-
3.	Scarlet Fever.....	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough.....	-	-
5.	Diphtheria.....	-	1
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	4	5
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	-	-
8.	Syphilitic Diseases.....	-	-
9.	Influenza.....	-	2
10.	Measles.....	-	-
11.	Acute polio-myelitis & polio-encephalitis.....	-	-
12.	Acute Inf. encephalitis.....	-	1
13.	Cancer of B.Cav. & Oesoph. (M) uterus(F).....	1	1
14.	Cancer of stomach & duodenum.....	6	2
15.	Cancer of Breast.....	-	3
16.	Cancer of all other sites.....	17	14
17.	Diabetes.....	-	3
18.	Intra-cran. vaso. lesions.....	11	13
19.	Heart Disease.....	26	20
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system.....	3	6
21.	Bronchitis.....	8	9
22.	Pneumonia.....	3	4
23.	Other respiratory diseases.....	1	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	-	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	2	3
26.	Appendicitis.....	-	-
27.	Other digestive diseases.....	-	2
28.	Nephritis.....	8	5
29.	Puer. & post-abort. sepsis.....	-	1
30.	Other maternal causes.....	-	1
31.	Premature Birth.....	3	1
32.	Con.mal. birth inj. infant.dis.....	6	4
33.	Suicide.....	-	-
34.	Road Traffic Accident.....	3	1
35.	Other violent causes.....	15	2
36.	All other causes.....	16	9

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) Same as last year.
 - (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 1941, 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.

HOUSING. Omitted. SECTION D.

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 1941.

	NUMBER OF CASES.														Deaths	
	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	Hospital.		
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	28	-	1	1	2	4	11	4	4	-	1	-	-	24	-	
Diphtheria	77	-	2	1	4	9	29	20	6	4	2	-	-	73	1	
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pler. Pyrexia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	
Pneumonia	23	-	2	-	2	4	1	1	1	7	3	2	-	-	-	
Erysipelas	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	1	1	-	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	11	-	2	-	-	1	1	1	2	3	1	-	-	9	-	
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles	87	2	9	9	11	12	39	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough	60	1	8	6	7	10	27	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Food Poison	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ophthalmia Neon.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	293	3	24	17	26	40	108	31	15	16	10	2	1	108	1	

SECTION F. (Cont).

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 1941.

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	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-
35 - 45	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	9	3	1	1	4	5	-	-

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. 1941.

	PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			TOTAL PULMONARY & NON-PULMONARY.
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	TOTAL.
Cases on Register Jan. 1st. 1941.	58	62	120	25	18	43	163
New Cases.	9	3	12	1	1	2	14
Cases Removed.	3	6	9	-	-	-	9
On Register 31.12.41	64	59	123	26	19	45	168

LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WILLIAM.N. LOCKEY.

for the year ended 31st. December 1941.

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

Mr. Chairman & Members,

I beg to submit my report upon the Sanitary Department for the year 1941.

HOUSING. Owing to the shortage of building materials and building trade labour being engaged on war work it has not been possible to carry out a great deal of work other than the very essentials in the way of housing repairs. Opportunity is taken whenever a Council House becomes available to re-house the worst cases from clearance areas but in this respect, the housing situation is now so acute that very little movement of tenants has occurred. As reported in last year's report we have 10 confirmed clearance areas with approximately 300 houses therein for which new houses have not yet been provided. In addition there are, in the area, various families who have been rendered homeless by enemy action, who are now billeted - these cases have to receive special consideration when any vacancies arise.

COLLECTION & DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE. As our equipment was strained to the utmost in trying to cope with the refuse and salvage collections, permission was obtained to purchase an additional refuse collection waggon in order to augment the services. This matter was delayed and it was not until December that delivery was effected. Our collections appear to be much heavier than usual. This may have been caused largely by the demand for coal being greater whereby inferior coal was reaching the market and the class being given to the miners was of a more inferior standard than usual. In addition, we are carrying out refuse collection from various military establishments in the area, some of the premises needing to be cleared daily. During one part of the year, following a very severe snowstorm, it was necessary to have additional vehicles in order to cope with the work.

TRADE REFUSE. As stated last year trade refuse is now being removed free of charge in order that the bulk of it should be utilised for salvage.

SALVAGE. Our scavenging vehicles are each fitted with a trailer so that collection of salvage is made at the same time as that of the refuse, with one exception, that of two special collections per week of Kitchen Waste. These special collections are made from 130 communal bins which are distributed throughout the area. Early in the year a direction was made on this Authority whereby all our Kitchen Waste had to be consigned to the concentrator plant at Newcastle. This imposed a further strain upon our already insufficient transport as one waggon was wholly employed for two days in the week collecting and delivering to Newcastle. Figures taken out over a few monthly periods showed that the undertaking was not a financial success.

TIPS. We are still tipping in four controlled tips in separate parts of the area. These are all in very good order but two (which are in quarries) are now nearly filled. Negotiations have been opened with a view to obtaining a further quarry which will take the refuse in place of the two before mentioned.

I beg to append below statistics relating to the scavenging services for the year ended 31st. March 1942. The figures are based upon the estimated population made in 1941 of 21,460 and 6,583 houses.

HOUSE REFUSE ONLY:-

Estimated quantity removed.....	14,174 Tons.
Approximate average weight per house.....	2.1 Tons.
Average quantity per house.....	5.225 Cub. yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day.....	36 Cwts.
Total cost of collection.....	£5,110
Cost of Disposal.....	358
Payment to men when sick.....	103
Part wages of men in H.M.Forces.....	<u>161</u>
 Total Scavenging Costs.....	 £5,732
Less payment for scavenging of Army Camps.....	£ 270
" profit on Salvage.....	<u>761</u> <u>1,031</u>
	 £ 4,701

	s.	d.
Cost per house.....	14-	3.3
Cost per Head population..	4-	4.5
Cost on rates in the £....	-	10.5

SALVAGE.

Total material sold.....	£1139
Costs other than with normal scavenging.....	<u>378</u>
	<u>£761</u>

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

During the present emergency, every effort is being made to carry out as efficient inspection of the district as possible. Records are kept in order to follow up any contraventions found but, in order to economise in time and paper, tables of these records are not being produced.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS 1924.

The scheme which came into operation last year for all animals slaughtered for food (other than casualties) to be slaughtered in Government controlled slaughter houses in Newcastle and allocated to this district was continued during 1941. A close watch is kept on the whole process of receiving and despatch to the retailers. It is pleasing to record that no contraventions were found and very small quantities of meat had to be condemned.

1. MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER 1926. The following is a summary of the particulars of the Milk and Dairies Register at the 31st. Dec. 1941.

Number of persons registered as cow-keepers.	19
Number of premises registered as cow-sheds.	24
Number of cows kept on registered premises (approximately)	435
Number of Cow-keepers retailing milk.	17
Number of persons registered as Dairymen in the area.	20
Number of Dairymen outside the area retailing in the area.	16
Number of premises registered as Dairies.	21
Number of persons registered as Retail Purveyors.	63

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

Premises licensed for Storage and Sale of T.T.Milk.	1
Premises licensed for Storage and 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.	nil
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.	U..satisfactory.	Total.	⁵ Satis.
Methylene Blue Test.	22	7	29	75.8
B.Coli.	26	3	29	89.6
All Respects (1941)	19	10	29	65.5
" (1940)	10	12	22	41.8

MILK PRODUCED OUTSIDE THE LONGBENTON AREA.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	⁸ Satis.
Methylene Blue Test.	nil	11	11	nil
B.Coli.	7	4	11	63.6
All Respects (1941).	nil	11	11	nil
" (1940).	1	11	12	8.3

GRADED MILK.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	% Satis.
Pasteurised.				
Total Bacterial Count.	2	2	4	50.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	% Satis.
Total Bacterial Count.	2	2	4	50.
Methylene Blue Test.	22	18	40	55.
B.Coli.	33	7	40	82.5
All respects. (1941)	19	21	40	47.5
" (1940)	12	22	34	35.2

BIOLOGICAL TEST.

Twenty four samples produced inside the area and seven produced outside were submitted for Biological Test. Two of the former and one of the latter were certified as "B.Tuberculosis present".

Yours faithfully,

W.N.Lockey.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.