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**Contributors**

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Longbenton

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*County of Northumberland.*

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# ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR

1949

OF

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health,*

AND

WILLIAM N. LOCKEY,

M.R.San.I., Certified Meat Inspector,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*



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# OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

<i>Office</i>		<i>Officer</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>
Medical Officer of Health...	...	WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM	M.P., Ch., B.D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	...	THEODORE CRAIG	M.B., Ch.B.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	...	WILLIAM N. LOCKEY	M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Cert., R.S.I., Sanitary Science Cert., R.S.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	...	GEORGE R. HUDSON	M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.

Longbenton Urban District Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM,

for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the*

LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1949.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Mid-year figures of the Registrar General show an increase of population of 1,210. This is largely due to the transfer of Newcastle tenants to the Longbenton Estate. The birth rate shows a slight increase over 1948, 463 against 435 in 1948. The death rate also shows a slight increase, 293 as against 253 in 1948. The increase in the number of deaths is commensurate with the increase of the population. There has been a significant decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate, 38.87 as against 43.68 in 1948.

The principal causes of death were :—

Diseases of the Heart	...	...	80
Cancer (all types)	...	...	56
Intra Cranial Lesions	...	...	33

There is an increase in the number of deaths from Cancer of all types, 56 as against 40 in 1948.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Details are given on page 12.

## MILK.

The milk supplies remain satisfactory as shown by the analyses in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

It is worth recording that in 24 samples of milk submitted for examination for the presence of *B. tuberculosis* none of the samples contained bacillus.

## HOUSING.

274 new houses were completed in 1949. A full report of the allocation, etc., will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

There is still overcrowding in certain districts and many more houses of the two and three bedroom types are urgently required.

## WATER SUPPLY.

(1) The water supply for the area during 1949 has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

(2) All the water is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., through the company's mains. Five samples were taken by this authority for Bacteriological Examination and found satisfactory.

Chemical analysis are made by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.

(3) The water supply has no plumbo-solvent action.

(4) No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination.

(5) A tabulated statement is given in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report of the number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains direct to houses by means of stand pipes.

## NUTRITION.

I have no evidence of any malnutrition in any class of the community as a result of present conditions.

I wish to thank the Chairman and the Members of the Council for their kind encouragement throughout the year and Mr. Lockey, Senior Sanitary Inspector and the Staff for their great help and loyalty.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. CUNNINGHAM,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A.

## STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

Area (in acres) ... ..	6,786
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-year 1949 ... ..	27,020
Number of inhabited houses (31/12/49) according to Rate Book ... ..	7,859
Rateable Value ... ..	£129,974
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (31/12/49) ...	£511

## 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	...	...	246	204	450
Illegitimate	...	...	7	6	13
			<hr/> 253	<hr/> 210	<hr/> 463
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	6	9	15
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	2
			<hr/> 7	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 17
Live Births per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	17.13
Still births per 1,000 Live and Still Births				...	31.25

## DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... ..	10.84
--	-------

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births)
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	nil	0.00
Other Maternal Causes ... ..	nil	0.00
	<u>nil</u>	<u>0.00</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS.					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	10	5	15
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					12	6	18
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS OF INFANTS UNDER  
1 YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	38.87
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births				33.33
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births				230
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	56
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...			2

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LONGBENTON AREA, 1949.

Causes of Death						Males	Female
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	161	132
1—Typhoid and Para Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2—Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3—Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4—Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5—Diphtheria...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	7	6
7—Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
8—Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
9—Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
10—Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
11—Ac. Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12—Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
13—Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph (M), uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
14—Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	8	5
15—Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
16—Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	18	17
17—Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
18—Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	18	15
19—Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	44	36
20—Other diseases of the circulatory system	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
21—Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	12	11
22—Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
23—Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
24—Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
25—Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
26—Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
27—Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
28—Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
29—Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30—Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31—Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
32—Con. mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
33—Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
34—Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
35—Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
36—All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	9	10

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 adults. There is, however, evidence that the general health and physique of children, both of pre-school and school age, are steadily improving.

# BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1949.

(The Mortality Rates for England and 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 and Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
ENGLAND AND WALES (1949).	16.7	0.39	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	3.0	32.0
LONGBENTON (1949)	17.13	0.42	10.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.074	0.00	0.00	4.31	38.87
LONGBENTON (1948)	16.85	0.27	9.80	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.038	0.00	0.00	4.59	43.68

TABLE SHOWING THE INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL IN 1935.

1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
78.3	85.22	87.3	70.27	51.9	85.7	60.6	51.8	61.6	35.95	76.54	35.95	36.68	43.68	38.87

## SECTION B.

1. (i) Public Health Officials : see page 2.
- (ii) Laboratory facilities are now available at the Public Health
  - (a) Laboratories, General Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Government Buildings, Blakelaw, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
  - (b) Ambulance Service is now under the jurisdiction of the Northumberland County Council. The service in Longbenton is administered by the South East Area Sub-Committee, of which Committee I act as Area Executive Medical Officer.
  - (c) Nursing in the home is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.
  - (d) There are no hospitals in the area with the exception of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Scaffold Hill.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

This service is operated and controlled by the Northumberland County Council.

## SECTION C.

## 1. WATER SUPPLY.

- (i) The water supply for the area during the last year has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. All the water for the district is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. The mains supplying Annitsford, Dudley, Seaton Burn and Wideopen are still the property of the Longbenton Urban District Council, whilst all other mains are the property of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.
- (ii) *Drainage and Sewerage*—Conditions remain the same.
2. (i) *Rivers and Streams*—See Senior Sanitary inspector's Report.
3. (i) *Closet Accommodation*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (ii) *Public Cleansing*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the area*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (iv) *Shops and Offices*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

- (v) *Camping Sites*—See Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (vi) *Smoke Abatement*—No official action has been necessary. See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (vii) *Swimming Baths and Pools*—There are no swimming baths or pools in the area.
- (viii) *Eradication of the Bed Bug*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (ix) *Head Lice*—No special treatment was given.  
*Body Lice*—No special treatment was given.

#### SCHOOLS.

The schools in the area are each provided with a sufficient suitable water supply from the mains supply. Periodical inspections are made of all schools.

#### SECTION D.

##### HOUSING.

See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

#### SECTION E.

##### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) *Milk Supply*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (b) *Meat and Other Foods*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.  
A Food Trader's Guild to ensure a supply of clean food under hygienic conditions is in process of formation and the response seems likely to be good.
- (c) *Adulteration*—This service is administered by the County Council.
- (d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food*—Samples of milk and ice cream are taken for Bacteriological Examination by this authority. These samples are examined at the Public Health Laboratory.
- (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 age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year :—

[SEE OVER PAGE].

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1949.

DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED										Hospital	Deaths
	Age Group											
	At all Ages (1948)	Under 1 year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 and over	Age not known			
Scarlet Fever ...	45 (39)	—	9	12	13	9	2	—	—	32	—	
Diphtheria ...	2 (—)	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	
Pneumonia ...	21 (15)	1	1	4	2	—	3	10	—	1	7	
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1 (—)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	
Erysipelas ...	12 (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	1	—	
Measles ...	359 (226)	12	147	126	65	5	4	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ...	96 (92)	4	37	31	20	—	2	2	—	—	—	
Acute Polio-myelitis ...	4 (—)	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	4	—	
	542 (375)	17	194	174	101	17	14	25	—	41	7	

The following Table shows the incidence of Diphtheria since 1940, when our immunisation Scheme was commenced. It will be noted that until 1943 there were still a number of children not immunised :—

YEARS			1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
No. of cases ...	...	...	39	77	101	30	110	16	10	5	—	2
Deaths ...	...	...	2	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIO MYELITIS.—Four cases were confirmed. No deaths occurred.

SCARLET FEVER.—There was an increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever in 1949, 45 cases as against 39 in 1948. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.—There were 2 cases of Diphtheria in 1949 of a very mild type.

PNEUMONIA.—21 cases were notified as against 15 in 1948.

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER.—There was one case of Cerebro Spinal Fever which recovered.

MEASLES.—There was an increase in the number of cases of Measles notified. 359 cases in 1949 as against 226 in 1948.

WHOOPING COUGH.—There was an increase in the number of cases notified, 96 as against 92 in 1948. There were no deaths.

FOOD POISONING.—There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning in 1949.

VENEREAL DISEASE.—Full support has been given to the Northumberland County Council in their propaganda against Venereal Disease. Posters have been published and handbills distributed and full information as to the places and times of the Clinics supplied to enquirers at this Public Health Department.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year.

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, 1949.—The following Tables are self explanatory :—

	CASES NOTIFIED				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years ...	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years ...	5	12	—	1	—	—	1	—
25 to 35 years ...	7	3	—	2	3	5	—	—
35 to 45 years ...	2	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
45 to 55 years ...	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 65 years ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	20	21	1	4	7	6	2	—

The notification of cases of Tuberculosis in the area has been satisfactory. No action has been necessary in any case of neglect or refusal to notify.

PARTICULARS OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER  
as at 31st December, 1949.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
Cases on Register at 1/1/49. ...	99	84	183	32	34	66	249
New Cases ...	20	21	41	1	4	5	46
Cases Removed	10	7	17	—	3	3	20
Cases Reinstated	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cases on Register at 31/12/49 ...	110	98	208	33	35	68	276

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47.

One elderly lady was transferred to suitable premises for care and attention. No court action was necessary.

Longbenton Urban District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

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Dear Dr. Cunningham,

I beg to submit my report on the Sanitary and Housing Department for the year 1949.

HOUSING.—Although this Authority have been able to build all the houses in the 1949 allocation, this number (154) has not been sufficient to reduce the number on the waiting lists as shown in the appended tables. The applications have increased from 1,522 on the first January, 1949, to 1,655 in September, 1949 and 1,711 in May 1950. It is not possible to obtain the figures for the 1st January, 1950, as the lists were produced on the second and third mentioned dates. It will be noted from the lists that those in Category A, *viz.*, " applicants in homes of their own who are living in overcrowded conditions " have been reduced from 282 to 255 although some 71 families were rehoused in larger accommodation than occupied. In Categories B and C, that is, " families without homes of their own," although some 76 families were provided with homes of their own of sufficient size the list has grown at the 1st May of this year to 716, 19 of the houses provided were utilised for the rehousing from Clearance Areas, which were confirmed before 1938, the condition of which had deteriorated so much that it was decided these houses could no longer be occupied. Adjustments in tenancies were made in 74 instances whereby new houses of larger size were allocated to existing Council house tenants or suitable exchanges arranged whereby large families were transferred to larger houses and small families allocated the smaller houses thereby giving additional accommodation to 40 families residing in Council houses who needed more accommodation than then occupied. The Department have kept a vigilant watch on existing houses with surplus accommodation and every effort is made to utilise existing and new houses to the best advantage.

It will be noted from the report that there have been provided some 104 houses on the Benton Lane Estate. These are under the control of the Newcastle Corporation and for rehousing families from the area of the City and County of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

In addition to the urgent needs of families overcrowded and without homes of their own the Council has also the problem of houses still occupied which were included in Clearance Areas confirmed prior to 1938, a total of 90 still being occupied at the the end of the year. Arrangements, however, were made whereby a number of these, approximately 25, would be rehoused early in 1950. There is also the problem of the rehousing of families residing in Nissen hutted camps. Seven still reside in Rookwood and 23 in Clousden Drive. The Committee are aware of the conditions of these families and an attempt is to be made to rehouse therefrom during 1950 following which the huts will be demolished so as to prevent further unofficial occupation. There are some 32 families residing in Tinkler's Square Camp where the huts are of better construction and sanitary accommodation and water supply more readily accessible. The Committee have given instructions for certain repairs and improvements to be carried out at this latter camp as it would appear from our housing need that it will have to remain occupied for a further period.

Category A.	1/4/49	/9/49	1/5/50
Applicants with houses of their own residing in overcrowded conditions ...	282	261	255
Category B.			
Applicants without homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions	225	240	213
Category C.			
Applicants without homes of their own but not overcrowded ...	449	481	503
Category D.			
Normal Applicants desiring improved Housing accommodation but not over- crowded ... ..	477	575	615
Applicants not residing in Longbenton Area ... ..	89	98	125
	<hr/> 1,522	<hr/> 1,655	<hr/> 1,711

## UNOFFICIAL OCCUPATION OF SLUM CLEARANCE HOUSES.

Two cases developed during the year where families moved into slum clearance houses following the rehousing of the occupiers and prior to the houses being demolished. Legal proceedings were instituted, in one instance the house was vacated before proceedings were taken. In the other the court gave possession within 28 days.

Two very bad cases of overcrowding were found which were in the nature of a deliberate attempt to force the Council to rehouse in Council houses, and not cases of sons or daughters being married and bringing their respective spouses to reside with parents. The conditions were so bad that it was necessary to bring them to the notice of the Committee for statutory action.

## REPAIR OF HOUSES.

It will be noted from Page No. 18, that a considerable amount of work has been carried out in the repair of private houses. Owners are still finding the costs of repairs to be very high in comparison with pre-war years and, in consequence thereof, in most instances do not carry out repairs until attention is drawn to disrepair by the department.

It was necessary to serve notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act in 13 instances following which 24 houses were overhauled, 13 by owners who complied with notices, in all the others specifications were prepared, tenders obtained and the work was done by builders on behalf of the Council, the final costs being charged to the owners.

It was found during the latter part of the year that more builders were in a position to offer to carry out work as evidenced by the increased number who submitted tenders. In 24 instances notices were served under the Public Health Acts and in all but 7, where the work was in progress, the work was carried out during the year without having to resort to legal proceedings.

Statutory Notices under Section 45 of the Act were served in 21 instances for the repair of defective closets, the owners complying with the notices in 9 instances and in 14, specifications were prepared and tenders invited for the carrying out of the work. The balance is made up of notices outstanding at the 1st January, 1949.

TABLE I.

	Number of Inspections during year.	Number of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws.	Number outstanding from previous year	Total	Number of Informal Notices	Defects remedied by Informal Action	Number of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after Statutory Notice	Legal Proceedings	Number in progress of being dealt with
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
HOUSING—										
Structural Defects ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Defective Food Store	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dampness ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WATER SUPPLY—										
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
DRAINAGE										
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Defective ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—										
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Defective ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shops Acts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tents, Vans, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Keeping of Animals ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	3342	2500	685	3185	650	1857	86	531	—	797

TABLE II.  
HOUSING.

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1949.

Houses Completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority—			
Permanent ...	154	—	154
Temporary ...	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons			
Permanent ...	107	13	120
Temporary ...	—	—	—

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

- (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ... .. 204
- (2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. 5
- (3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. 199

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers ... .. 279

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :—

(A) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... .. 24
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
  - (a) By Owners ... .. 13
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... .. 11

— 24

(B) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	24
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a)	By Owners	... ..	17
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	—
			17

(C) *Proceedings under Section 11 and 12 of Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	4
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	20
(3)	Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949. Sec. 3.)	...	—

(D) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	—

4.	NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS AND NOT INCLUDED ABOVE	...	1
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## HOUSING ACT, 1949. (Sec. 20).

(a)	Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been received	... ..	—
(b)	Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been approved	... ..	—

TABLE III.  
SUMMARY OF WORK AFFECTED.

		By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—				
Privies and Privy Ashpits abolished	...	5	—	5
Water Closets repaired	...	57	33	90
Pail-Closets abolished	...	—	—	—
Water-Closets provided	...	7	—	7
Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A. 1936, S. 47	...	4	—	4
Sanitary Bins provided	...	5	—	5
Sanitary Bins renewed	...	163	17	180
DRAINAGE—				
New Drains constructed	...	69	3	72
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	120	20	140
Additional Gullies provided	...	68	2	70
Old Gullies replaced	...	5	2	7
Scullery Sinks provided	...	66	4	70
Scullery Waste Pipes repaired	...	24	5	29
Scullery Waste Pipes trapped	...	2	4	6
Yards repaired or reconstructed	...	21	5	26
WATER SUPPLY—				
Sources closed or discontinued	3	No. of houses	...	20
New services provided—				
(a) By Local Authority	...	No. of houses	...	—
(b) By Private Owner	219	No. of Houses	...	219
Number of Dwelling Houses supplied by—				
(a) internal tap or	7069			
(b) standpipe	382			
(c) standpipe in yard	408			

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

##### WATER SUPPLY.

A considerable amount of progress has been made to have inside water supplies provided for houses drawing supplies from common stand pipes in the street. The Council agreed to the Coal Board providing inside water supplies only, without sinks or additional drainage, at 143 houses at Burradon Colliery, they having considered that the property could not be given a sanitary life of more than 10 years. In 63 houses at Seaton Burn the Committee gave an extended life of between 10 and 15 years and inside water supplies, sinks and additional drainage was provided. Negotiations were proceeding at the end of the year to have further National Coal

Board properties dealt with before the end of 1950. Advantage was taken while serving informal housing notices in instances where the tenants of private houses were drawing water from common taps to have inside water supply and sinks provided. There is a record of 30 houses having been so improved. The proportion of houses now drawing water supplies from common taps as compared with those with inside water supply has been further reduced by the erection of new houses which are all provided with inside water supplies, sinks and baths, and by the provision of inside supplies mentioned above, and also by the demolition of houses in clearance areas without inside water supplies.

The following table shows the position with regard to inside water supplies, sinks, w.c's., etc., for the whole area. It is to be noted that less than 5% of the population are now drawing water supplies from stand pipes in the street.

Houses	No. of Houses with						
	Baths	Sinks	Inside Water Supply	Yard Tap	Common Tap	W.C.s.	E.C's.
7,859	5,190	6,676	393	408	382	7,818	41

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Records show that only 41 houses are not connected to the water carriage system. Of these it is anticipated that some 21 will be demolished in the very near future, they being in clearance areas, and the rest are in connection with isolated farms where sewerage facilities are not available.

#### ASH BINS.

Informal notices were served for the replacement of 163 insanitary ash bins. It was necessary, however, to serve statutory notice in 14 instances for the renewal of 17 ash bins. In 11 of the latter cases the bins had to be installed and the cost charged to the owners. In each instance the Council considered upon whom the notice should be served. No appeals were lodged during the year.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No cases of pollution of streams were noted during the year.

#### ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG.

The district is comparatively free from bad infestations of the bed bug. All complaints are investigated and if necessary work is carried out by Council workmen and a charge

made against either (1) the landlord in the case of an empty house or (2) the tenant in the case of an occupied house. Where the tenant is willing to carry out the work himself he is allowed the free use of the sprayer and a charge for the solution provided is made. We are still carrying out treatment of all furniture moved into Council houses whether from slum clearance areas or from normal allocation of Council houses, it being a requirement of the Council that all furniture must be treated prior to removal but during this treatment it has been noted that there is a very small percentage even of the old houses badly infested with vermin. In instances where it is found necessary, second and third treatments are given in the new houses following the initial treatment before the furniture leaves the old house. The solution used is D.D.T. in Kerosene and it has been found that this preparation is very effective.

#### SHOPS AND OFFICES.

A campaign was carried out during the year to have shops in the area without running hot water supply provided with hot and cold water supply. The Council decided that hot water supply within the meaning of the Food and Drugs Act meant piped hot water and we were able to persuade the proprietors in 52 food handling premises to have water heaters provided and in three instances additional sanitary accommodation. In only another 11 instances were contraventions of the Shops Acts found and informal requests were complied with.

#### TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Two licenses only have been issued for the use of caravans for human habitation. In one instance it is used during the summer months only by a person who works in a hospital theatre. It was necessary, however, to serve notice for the removal of tents in two instances. In one the conditions were so bad that it was reported to the Council and Statutory Notice was served under Section 93 of the Act for the abatement of the nuisance.

TABLE IV.  
FOOD INSPECTION.

Unsound Food				Sur-rendered	Seized	Legal Pro-ceedings
1.	Beef (Home-Killed)	...stones		49½	—	—
2.	Beef (Imported)	... "		12	—	—
3.	Mutton (Home-Killed)	... "		1½	—	—
4.	Mutton (Imported)	... "		—	—	—
5.	Pork (Home-Killed)	... "		1	—	—
6.	Pork (Imported)...	... "		—	—	—
7.	Game	... lbs.		—	—	—
8.	Poultry	... "		—	—	—
9.	Fish	... "		—	—	—
10.	Fruit	Lbs. or cases		—	—	—
11.	Canned Goods	... Tins		528	—	—
12.	Bacon	... lbs.		48	—	—
13.	Cheese	... "		7	—	—
14.	Margarine	... "		19	—	—
15.	Lard	... "		—	—	—
16.	Sausage	... "		18	—	—
17.	Other Foods—					
	Bread	... "		45	—	—
	Peas	... "		50	—	—
	Vinegar	...Galls.		12½	—	—

#### MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

##### *Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.*

The principal adopted during the war of slaughtering only in Government controlled slaughterhouses in Newcastle area and only in an emergency, slaughter taking place in the district was still in operation during 1949. The meat is allocated to the Longbenton Butchers' Pool and loaded into vehicles at the slaughterhouse, transported and unloaded at the West Moor Co-operative Slaughterhouse where it is weighed, allocated to the butchers concerned, loaded into the butchers' vans and taken to the butchers' shops. I have reported on previous occasions with regard to this extra handling of meat which mitigates against the appearance and the keeping quality of the meat. The Committee of the Master Butchers' Association and the Department work in close harmony and any suggestions made are willingly accepted.

##### COTTAGER'S PIGS.

The practice of previous years of notifying the Department of all licences issued for the slaughter of cottagers' pigs by the Food Office was stopped and, therefore, it was only in instances where the cottager or the butcher informed the Department were we aware that slaughter was taking place. In all instances which were drawn to the notice of the Department inspections were carried out. Only a small amount of meat was found to be diseased. Generally cottagers and

farmers slaughtering pigs for their own use are very desirous to have their animals examined by a qualified inspector at the time of slaughter.

#### PUBLIC ABBATOIR.

It would appear to me that the time has now arrived for the Council to consider the slaughtering facilities within the area. The demand has greatly, and will further, increase with the large number of new houses being provided in the area by outside Authorities and should future policy decide a revision to local slaughterhouses those in the district will be insufficient to meet the needs of the area. It is my intention to ask the Public Health Committee to prepare a scheme for a Public Abbatoir in the Longbenton area.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

#### MILK REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following is a summary of the particulars of the Milk and Dairies Register at the 1st October, 1949, prior to the coming into operation of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944.

Number of persons registered as cow-keepers	18
Number of premises registered as cow-sheds ...	19
Number of cows kept on registered premises (approx.) ... ..	460
Number of cow-keepers retailing milk ... ..	14
Number of persons registered as Dairymen in the area ... ..	19
Number of Dairymen outside the area re- tailing in area ... ..	11
Number of premises registered as Dairies ...	19
Number of persons registered as Retail Purveyors ... ..	54

#### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) ORDER, 1936.

The following are particulars of licenses granted under the above Order :—

Premises licensed for storage and sale of T.T. Milk ... ..	—
Premises licensed for storage and sale of Pasteurised Milk ... ..	4
Supplementary licences to retail T.T. Milk ...	3
Supplementary licences to retail Pasteurised Milk ... ..	2
Supplementary licences to retail Accredited Milk ... ..	—
Accredited producers ... ..	2
Tuberculin Tested producers ... ..	3

Only one dairy registered in this district was not in connection with a dairy-farm and as this retailer was no longer selling milk his name was removed from the register.

There are now 25 retail purveyors registered in the area.

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Samples of milk from each supply were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination and Biological Test. The detailed tables show the results of the sampling for the year.

##### MILK PRODUCED IN THE LONGBENTON AREA.

Examination	Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test ...	24	10	34	70.6
B. Tuberculosis ...	Not Found 20	Present —	Total 20	100

##### MILK PRODUCED OUTSIDE LONGBENTON AREA.

Examination	Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test ...	10	3	13	77
B. Tuberculosis ...	Not found 1	Present —	Total 1	100

##### GRADED MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test ...	13	3	16	81
B. Tuberculosis ...	Not Found 3	Present —	Total 3	100

##### TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN.

Examination	Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test ...	47	16	63	75
B. Tuberculosis ...	Not Found 24	Present —	Total 24	100

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM.

During the summer months regular sampling of ice cream has been made, trying as far as possible to have samples from each different trader and paying special regard to ice cream produced by our one and only producer, and also where previous samples had not been satisfactory.

PRODUCER	SAMPLES	RESULTS AND GRADES
A.	5	1.2.3.1.1. Local Producer
B.	5	1.2.4.4.4.
C.	3	4.3.4.
D.	2	2.2.
E.	4	4.4.4.4.
F.	2	1.1.
G.	1	3. Occasional Vendor
H.	1	4. „
I.	1	3. „

Sanitary Inspectors of the districts from which the unsatisfactory samples were produced were informed of the Bacteriologists Reports.

## COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The Council maintain a fleet of five refuse collection vehicles and in addition have two general utility waggons which can be used for refuse collection in cases of emergency. This fleet has been sufficient to deal with the refuse produced throughout the district. Collections are made at least once a week, except in the mining areas, wherein the bins must be emptied at least bi-weekly.

## STATISTICS.

I beg to append below statistics relating to the refuse collection. The figures are based upon the estimated population for mid-1949 of 27,020.

## HOUSE REFUSE ONLY.

Estimated quantity removed	...	...	18,753 tons.
Approximate average weight per house	...	...	2.36 tons.
Average quantity per house per annum	...	...	7.6 cu. yds.
Average per 1,000 pop. per day (365 days)	...	...	37.5 cwts.
Total cost of collection (Refuse and Salvage)	...	...	£10,073.
Cost of disposal	...	...	£675
Payment to men when sick	...	...	£228.
Total Scavenging Costs	...	...	£10,976
Less income from salvage	...	...	£1,011.
Nett Scavenging Cost	...	...	£9,965

				£	s.	d.
Cost per house	...	...	...	1	5	4.8
Cost per head population	...	...	...		7	0.06
Cost on rates in the £	...	...	...		1	7.6

#### DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

It is necessary in this area to use three separate tips owing to the scattered nature of the district and to the high ash content and correspondingly heavy nature of the refuse collected. The three tips used during 1949 were :—

1. *Burradon Quarry* which still has sufficient space for a number of years to take the refuse from Annitsford, Burradon and Dudley.
2. *Scaffold Hill Quarry* the use of which has been obtained from the farmer concerned and will be of sufficient size to take the refuse for a further period from West Allotment, Benton, Forest Hall, Killingworth, Benton Lane Estates and West Moor.
3. *Wideopen Quarry* which was purchased by the Council with the intention of eventually making it into a park and open space for this part of the district, still has sufficient accommodation for refuse for a further 1½-2 years.

A tip man is in attendance whilst tipping is taking place at the various sites and the tipping is carried out on strictly controlled lines, the tips being kept free from rats and fire.

The tips are sprayed with Gammazene at frequent intervals so as to prevent flies, cockroaches or crickets.

#### TRADE REFUSE.

At the outbreak of hostilities, when the need for salvage of waste materials became evident, the council decided to forego the charge for the removal of trade refuse, as it was thought that shop keepers would destroy salvagable materials in order to keep the amount of trade refuse to a minimum. This concession was in operation until the end of the year.

#### SALVAGE.

This Council had an agreement for the disposal of all waste paper collected and even following the reduction of the price decided to continue with the collection of paper as it was deemed advisable to reduce to a minimum the amount of paper in the tips and that it was still required as a raw material for the manufacture of boards, etc. During the year we were able to collect 147 tons of paper, above 5 tons of non-ferrous metals and 12 tons of scrap iron.

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

This Council accepted the delegation of powers under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919 and the Infestation Order, 1943, from the Northumberland County Council. It has been noted following regular treatments of the sewers that the complaints received of rat infestations, especially on private properties, are practically negligible. All complaints received are investigated and either advice given on how to clear the infestations or the work is carried out by the Council's workmen and charges made accordingly.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The Council have joined the National Smoke Abatement Society North East Divisional Council and are represented on the Executive Committee by Councillor Mrs. McCann and myself. Whilst all the industrial premises in this district use electrical energy, and there are no potential smoke nuisances from any premises, the possibility of nuisance from burning pit heaps remains and informal discussions have taken place with the managements of the collieries in the district in order to minimise the risk of fire from such accumulations, undertakings have been given that immediate action will be taken should any of the pit heaps show signs of combustion.

Yours faithfully,

W. N. LOCKEY,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector*









