

[Report 1950] / Medical Officer of Health, Longbenton U.D.C.

Contributors

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Longbenton
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

County of Northumberland.

•
ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR

1950

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.B., 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.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM,
for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

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 1950.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Mid-year 1950 figures from the Registrar-General show an increase in population of 610 as compared with mid-year 1949. Births show a decrease of 50. Deaths show an increase of 16. Infantile Mortality Rate shows a commendable decrease from 38·7 per 1,000 live births to 31·47. This compares with the National Rate of 29·8 per 1,000 live births.

The principal causes of death were :—

Diseases of the Heart	..	..	113
Cancer of all types	..	..	54
Vascular Lesions of Brain	.	..	48

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Details are given on pages 11 and 12.

MILK.

The milk supplies were maintained satisfactorily in quantity and quality. 29 samples were submitted for the presence of *B. tuberculosis*. All proved "negative."

HOUSING.

231 new houses were built during 1950. The picture of overcrowding of the district has shown from year to year an appreciable improvement. Much remains to be done.

WATER SUPPLY.

(1) The water supply throughout the area during 1950 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.

(3) Owing to pollution in a small area, necessitating work on the water mains, repeated samples had to be taken for bacteriological examination before the position could be accepted as satisfactory.

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

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

(6) A tabulated statement is given in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report of the number of dwelling houses with piped water supplies inside the house.

NUTRITION.

I have no evidence of malnutrition in any class of the community ; in particular, I state that the school children in all the areas of the district show a high standard of nutrition and cleanliness.

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 1950	27,630
Number of inhabited houses (31/12/50) according to Rate Book	8,010
Rateable Value	£134,373
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (31/12/50)	£527-14-8

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.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	217	186	403
Illegitimate	3	7	10
	<hr/> 220	<hr/> 193	<hr/> 413
Still Births—Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 6

Comparability Factors:—

Births	1.01	
Deaths	1.14	
Live Births per 1,000 Population	14.94	Corrected 15.08
Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	14.5	„ 14.64

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	11.18	Corrected 12.74
---	-------	-----------------

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births)</i>
Puerperal Sepsis	nil	0.00
Other Maternal Causes	nil	0.00
	<hr/> nil	<hr/> 0.00

DEATHS OF INFANTS under 1 year of age.						<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	6	7	13
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
						—	—	—
						6	7	13
						—	—	—

DEATHS OF INFANTS under 4 weeks of age.								
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
						—	—	—
						4	4	8
						—	—	—

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

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	..	..	..	..	31.47
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births	..	..	..	..	32.23
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	..	..	..	..	0.00

DEATH RATE PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS OF INFANTS UNDER
4 WEEKS OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	..	..	..	..	19.37
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Live Births	..	..	..	..	19.85
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Live Births	..	..	..	..	0.00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..	..	..	..	..	54
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LONGBENTON AREA, 1950.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>						<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
All Causes	..	..	..	..	..	160	149
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..				3	2
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..			—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..		—	—
4. Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
6. Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
8. Measles	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..				—	—
10. Cancer of stomach	..	..	..	..	..	4	6
11. Cancer of lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	4	—
12. Cancer of breast	..	..	..	..	..	—	4
13. Cancer of uterus	..	..	..	..	..	—	6
14. Cancer of all other sites	..	..	..	..	..	19	11
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
16. Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..				24	24
18. Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	23	14
19. Hypertension with heart disease	..	..				2	2
20. Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	36	36
21. Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	..	4	2
22. Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
23. Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	6	3
24. Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	11	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..				1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..				1	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	..	..				—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	....	..	..	..	..	2	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..				—	—
31. Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..				8	16
33. Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
34. All other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
35. Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
36. Homicide and other operations of war	..	..				—	1

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 1950.

(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	Acute Polymyelitis	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Enteric Fever	Smallpox	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
ENGLAND AND WALES (1950) ..	15.8	0.37	11.6	1.02	0.46	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	1.9	29.8
LONGBENTON (1950) (Cor.) ..	15.08	0.22	12.74	0.07	0.32	0.03	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	..	31.47
LONGBENTON (1949) ..	17.13	0.42	10.84	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.074	0.00	0.00	4.31	38.87

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	1950
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	31.47

SECTION B.

1. (i) Public Health Officials : see page 2.
- (ii) (a) Laboratory facilities are now available at the Public Health 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. 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 Senior 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 Traders' Guild, under the auspices of the Longbenton Urban District Council, has been formed in order to obtain clean and hygienic conditions in the handling and sale of food by voluntary and competitive methods other than by compulsion.
- (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*—Talks were given to young mothers at meetings arranged by the Ministry of Food Branch Officers at Child Welfare Clinics.
- (f) *Shellfish (Molluscan)*—There are no shellfish beds or layings in this area. Shellfish is rarely sold in this area.

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 :—

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1950

DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED										Hospital	Deaths
	Age Group											
	At all Ages (1949)	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 ..	56 (45)	—	8	23	17	7	1	—	—	37	—	
Diphtheria ..	— (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia ..	30 (21)	5	7	8	8	2	—	—	—	2	2	
Cerebrospinal Fever ..	— (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	— (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas ..	3 (12)	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	
Measles ..	240 (359)	14	81	90	53	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ..	81 (96)	8	21	31	21	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	7 (4)	—	—	1	2	1	1	2	—	5	2	
Dysentery ..	4 (—)	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
	421 (542)	27	121	153	101	12	2	5	—	45	4	

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	1950
No. of Cases	39	77	101	30	110	16	10	5	—	2	—
Deaths	2	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.—7 cases were notified; 2 deaths occurred.

SCARLET FEVER.—Notifications show an increase of 11.

PNEUMONIA.—Notifications show an increase of 9.

DIPHTHERIA.—It is significant that no cases of Diphtheria were notified during the twelve months under review.

MEASLES.—There is a decrease in the number of cases of Measles notified, 240 in 1950 as against 359 in 1949.

WHOOPING COUGH.—There is a slight decrease in the number of cases notified, 81 in 1950 as against 96 in 1949. There was one death.

FOOD POISONING. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning in 1950.

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, 1950.

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 ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years ..	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
15 to 25 years ..	11	7	2	—	1	—	—	—
25 to 35 years ..	7	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years ..	5	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 years ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	29	18	4	2	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, 1950.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
Cases on Register at 1/1/50.. ..	110	98	208	33	35	68	276
New Cases	29	18	47	4	2	6	53
Cases Removed ..	9	5	14	1	1	2	16
Cases Reinstated ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cases on Register at 31/12/50 ..	131	111	242	36	36	72	314

I attribute much of the increase in numbers to transfers from the Newcastle Register of cases (20) re-housed in Benton Lane from Newcastle.

Longbenton Urban District Council,

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR,

for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

DEAR DR. CUNNINGHAM,

I beg to submit my Report on the Sanitary and Housing Departments for the year 1950.

HOUSING.—Considerable progress has been attained in our Housing Programme during the year 1950. The Council were able to obtain an additional allocation of 30 houses to their zonal figure owing to the fact that land was available and our zonal figure was used up early in the year 1950. In total we were able to occupy 174 new houses; by the allocation of these, the re-allocation of 8 existing houses which became vacant and the adjustment of tenancies during the occupation of the new houses (moving overcrowded tenants out of existing Council houses into new larger houses and re-letting the vacated houses), we were actually able to effect improved conditions for no less than 306 families.

The following table shows the numbers allocated to the various types of applicant:—

<i>Points Scheme—</i>	A.	B.	C.	D.	
Categories ..	64	59	47	30	— 200
<i>Others—</i>					
Exchanges ..	..	..	..	..	73
Clearance Areas ..	..	..	..	..	28
Eviction Orders ..	..	..	..	..	2
Ministry of National Insurance ..	..	..	..	..	3
					<hr/> 306 <hr/>

At the end of the year all applicants on the Housing Lists were circulated with a new application form and asked to re-apply in order that the Council should be aware of the true position of the housing need. As the undermentioned table shows this, together with the re-housing which had taken place, had reduced our waiting list from 1,711 to 1,149.

It will be noted that further re-housing from Clearance Areas took place partly from the High Row Clearance Area, Seaton Burn, and from the Railway Row and Front Street Areas, Annitsford. It was not possible to have the whole of the re-housing carried out from the Clousden Drive Camp before the end of the year but arrangements were well in hand to do so early in 1951. Altogether, 6 huts were vacated and demolished on this and the Rookwood Camp, Seaton Burn.

The Newcastle Corporation were able to occupy 37 new houses on the Benton Lane Estate during the year. These are under the control of the Newcastle Corporation and for the re-housing of families from the area of the City.

A recent survey has shown that there was at that time some 89 persons living alone in Council houses, this having arisen by the passing of either husband or wife or of both parents leaving a son or daughter sole occupant. It would appear to me that this position is not just applicable to Council houses and I am sure that when the 1951 census figures are published for the country as a whole it will be seen that the accommodation available generally is not being used to the best advantage.

The Council have considered the matter and as an experiment converted one of the flats in the requisitioned house "Lynholm." Two rooms were fitted out as separate holdings, each having a gas cooker, cold water tap and sink and kitchen unit, with one W.C. and a bathroom for the two tenants. These holdings were offered to single men residing in Council houses and thereby making houses available for families. This proposal was not welcomed by the single persons concerned and it was some considerable time before the two holdings were occupied by single men. In the meantime, numerous applications were made by old single men who are at present paying fairly high amounts for board and lodgings who would welcome a single room of this type as the amount paid for the lodgings almost exceeds the amount received in pension.

The Council have this matter in hand and I hope that at the not too distant future some provision will be made for flatlets which can be let at a very low rental for single persons.

The following table shows the fluctuation of the number of applications for Council houses between 1/4/49 and 31/12/50 :—

<i>Category A.</i>	1/4/49	1/9/49	1/5/50	31/12/50
Applicants with houses of their own residing in overcrowded conditions ..	282	261	255	212
<i>Category B.</i>				
Applicants without homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions	225	240	213	103
<i>Category C.</i>				
Applicants without homes of their own but not overcrowded	449	481	503	376
<i>Category D.</i>				
Normal applicants desiring improved housing accommodation but not overcrowded	477	575	615	582
Applicants not residing in Longbenton Area	89	98	125	176
	<u>1,522</u>	<u>1,655</u>	<u>1,711</u>	<u>1,149</u>

OVERCROWDING.

Four very bad cases of new overcrowding were brought to the notice of the Department during the year and in two instances we were able to effect abatement without having to report to the Council thereon. In the other two instances the matter was reported to the Committee and instructions were given to serve notice for the abatement of the overcrowding. In one instance the notice was not complied with and the occupier was prosecuted for permitting the overcrowding in contravention of the Housing Act, 1936. The defendant was found guilty of the offence and was fined £5.

REPAIR OF HOUSES.

It will be noted from the details, later given, that a considerable amount of work has been carried out in the repair of houses. In no less than 30 instances was it necessary to ask for instructions to serve notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Work was completed during the year to 24 of the houses, 8 by the owners who complied with the notices ; in the other 16, specifications were prepared, tenders were obtained by advertisement and the work done by builders on behalf of the Council, the work being supervised by the Department and the final costs being charged to the owners.

It was necessary to have 139 houses repaired by formal action under the Public Health Act, 1936 ; of these 127 were repaired by the owners who complied with the notices, but in 4 instances it was necessary for the Council to do the work in default similarly to that under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

It is noted that more difficulty is being experienced to persuade landlords to maintain property in a satisfactory condition. Rents have not been increased since 1939 and the cost of labour and materials has been more than doubled and, in some cases, trebled to what they were pre-war and landlords are finding it difficult to meet the cost of repairs. Property is, therefore, being neglected until attention is drawn by the Department to very necessary repairs.

Whilst rent restriction is not the purview of the Sanitary Inspector it is impossible to ignore this factor and, if further deterioration of property is to be arrested, the rents of houses must receive attention but it is to be hoped that no scheme for rent increase will be allowed without imposing some conditions regarding the fitness of the property, and permission to increase the rent should only be granted if the properties are maintained in a fairly high standard of fitness and not as in the previous instance when in 1923 an increase of 40 per cent. was allowed on all rent for repairs regardless of the conditions of the property.

Sections 11 and 12, Housing Act, 1936.

One house was closed under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, and 2 were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.

IMPROVEMENT GRANT.

Applications were received during the year from two owner-occupiers for an Improvement Grant under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949. One had arrangements made to commence but, fearing the delay, withdrew the application and proceeded to carry out the improvement without grant. In the other instance the application was duly recommended for approval but the actual approval was not received before the end of the year.

TABLE 1.

	Number of Inspections during year.	Number of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws	Number of Informal Notices	Defects remedied by Informal Action	Number of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after Statutory Notice	Legal Proceedings
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
HOUSING—							
Structural Defects ..	..	995	103	581	23	439	—
Defective Food Store ..	..	26	9	14	2	14	—
Dampness ..	2,040	232	31	127	28	118	1
Overcrowding ..	..	3	3	3	—	—	1
WATER SUPPLY—							
Insufficient ..	299	27	14	5	27	52	—
Unsatisfactory ..	..	13	16	11	1	4	—
DRAINAGE—							
Insufficient ..	176	27	14	26	3	—	—
Defective ..	..	125	58	72	19	35	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—							
Insufficient ..	588	1	1	2	—	—	—
Defective ..	..	195	97	117	15	110	—
Food Premises ..	143	9	7	13	—	—	—
Shops Acts ..	18	3	3	3	—	—	—
Dairies ..	85	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses ..	36	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc. ..	32	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workshops ..	12	4	4	3	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals ..	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ..	67	123	108	110	5	7	—
Offensive Accumulations ..	25	4	4	3	1	1	—
Smoke Nuisances ..	23	16	7	6	1	9	—
TOTAL ..	3,561	1,803	479	1,096	125	789	2

TABLE II.
HOUSING.

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1950.

Houses Completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority—			
Permanent	174	—	174
Temporary	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons—			
Permanent	37	20	57
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) .. | 323 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.. .. . | 3 |
| (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 .. | 181 |

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	217
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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 | 30 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | 8 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. | 16 |
| | 24 |

(B) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	139
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	127
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	4
	— 131

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

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	47
(3) Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949, Sec. 3)	1

(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. (Army Huts) .. 6

HOUSING ACT, 1949. (Sec. 20).

(a) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been received	1
(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 ..		3	—	3
Water Closets repaired		53	30	83
Pail-closets abolished		—	—	—
Water Closets provided		3	—	3
Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A. 1936, S.47		3	—	3
Sanitary Bins provided		—	—	—
Sanitary Bins renewed		110	7	117
DRAINAGE—				
New Drains constructed		26	—	26
Drains repaired or reconstructed ..		72	35	107
Additional Gullies provided		5	52	57
Old Gullies replaced		2	—	2
Scullery Sinks provided		—	52	52
Scullery Waste Pipes repaired		14	7	21
Scullery Waste Pipes trapped		4	—	4
Yards repaired or reconstructed ..		7	8	15
WATER SUPPLY—				
Sources closed or discontinued	6	No. of houses ..	..	47
New Services provided—				
(a) By Local Authority	—	No. of houses ..	..	—
(b) By Private Owner	57	No. of houses ..	..	57
Number of Dwelling Houses supplied by—				
(a) Internal tap	7,324			
(b) Standpipe	335			
(c) Standpipe in yard	351			

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

Further progress has been made to have inside water supplies provided to houses without this amenity. In all, 57 houses were provided with inside water supplies and sinks. Arrangements were made for the improvement of a further 60 houses but the work was not completed before the end of the year. The procedure adopted previously of requiring an inside water supply and sink to individual houses without these amenities was pursued during the year. The proportion of the houses now drawing water from common taps as compared with those with inside water supplies has been further reduced by the (1) erection of new houses, which are all provided with inside water supply, sinks and baths, (2) the new inside supplies provided and mentioned above, and (3) the demolition of houses in clearance areas where the supply was from standpipes in the street.

The following table shows the position with regard to water supplies, baths, sinks, W.C.'s for the whole area. It is to be noted that the percentage of houses now drawing water from stand pipes in the street has been reduced to the low figure of 4 per cent.

Houses	No. of Houses with						
	Baths	Sinks	Inside Water Supply only	Yard Tap	Common Tap	W.C.'s	E.C.'s
8,010	5,421	6,931	393	351	335	7,973	37

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

During the investigation of a case of acute poliomyelitis a complaint was made that the water supply appeared to be somewhat cloudy. Samples were immediately submitted for bacteriological examination and it was found that the sample from the house in question showed a count of — 180 B. coli per 100 m.l.

This matter was immediately investigated and further samples were taken on the estate and from premises at the point where the water mains enter the estate and from other parts of the district.

It was found that the samples from the rest of the district and the point where the mains enter the estate were satisfactory but again samples at or near the house were unsatisfactory. The matter was immediately taken up with the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., who had the drains chlorinated. Further samples were taken to test the effect of this chlorination and it was again found that the samples taken from houses drawing supplies from a certain main were highly polluted.

During our investigation it was noted that builders were using a standpipe from a hydrant and water was escaping into the hydrant casing and on observation it was noted that the level of this water was rising and falling. Upon examination it was found that the leather washer at the connection of the standpipe to the hydrant was very badly worn and it was suspected that during the heavy draw on the main the water from the hydrant casing was finding its way into the main and causing pollution. A new washer was provided for the standpipe and the mains again chlorinated. Further samples submitted were highly satisfactory. In all, 31 samples had to be taken over the period until we were satisfied that no further pollution existed.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Records show that only 37 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.

ASHBINS.

Informal notices were served for the replacement of 108 insanitary ashbins. It was necessary, however, to serve statutory notice in 5 instances for the renewal of 7 ashbins. In 2 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.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Licences are held by occupiers of two trailer caravans stationed in the district. Both have adequate water supply and sanitary accommodation.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Bye-laws.—The Council gave consideration to Circular 18/49 relative to the adoption of byelaws for securing the observation of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food intended for sale for human

consumption and in connection with the sale or exposure of food for sale in the open air, and adopted Byelaws for the district based on the model produced by the Ministry of Food.

Extraneous Matter in Bread.—Complaints were received by the Department in two instances of extraneous matter being found in bread. The first was that of a cigarette end which had been found in a loaf and the second was a piece of cement found embedded in a loaf. In each case the Committee were of the opinion that there had been some negligence and instructions were given to take legal proceedings. In each case the Bench decided that an offence had been committed and imposed penalties.

Food Traders' Guild.—The Public Health Committee agreed to sponsor the inauguration of a Food Traders' Guild in the district. Invitations were sent out to all the food traders in the district and a meeting was held, when a scheme was laid before the traders and the proposal received favourable consideration. 64 traders attended this meeting. Unfortunately, formal applications for membership of the Guild were very slow in coming forward and, owing to this and pressure of other work, we were not able to make the progress desired. Towards the end of the year, however, more applications were received and it is to be hoped by 1951 many certificates of membership will be displayed throughout the area. Advantage was taken during the meeting of the food traders to use the services of the Central Council of Information and a film show was given dealing with the handling of food.

TABLE IV.
FOOD INSPECTION.

Unsound Food					Sur- rendered	Seized	Legal Pro- ceedings
1.	Beef (Home-killed)	..	..	stones	62½	—	—
2.	Beef (Imported)	..	..	..	32½	—	—
3.	Mutton (Home-killed)	..	..	..	3	—	—
4.	Mutton (Imported)	..	..	..	—	—	—
5.	Pork (Home-killed)	..	..	..	—	—	—
6.	Pork (Imported)	..	..	..	—	—	—
7.	Game	..	..	.. lbs.	—	—	—
8.	Poultry	..	..	..	—	—	—
9.	Fish	..	..	..	—	—	—
10.	Fruit	..	..	..	19	—	—
11.	Canned Goods	..	..	.. tins	1,059	—	—
12.	Bacon	..	..	.. lbs.	50	—	—
13.	Margarine	..	..	..	½	—	—
14.	Sausage	..	..	..	43	—	—
15.	Tongue	..	..	..	6	—	—
16.	Barley	..	..	..	23½	—	—
17.	Sago	..	..	..	55	—	—
18.	Sugar	..	..	..	20	—	—
19.	Tea	..	..	..	1½	—	—

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 1950. The meat is allocated to the Longbenton Butcher's 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 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.

COTTAGERS' 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 ABATTOIR.

The Council have considered the facilities which are available within the area for the slaughter of animals for human consumption, and in view of the fact that the present facilities would be insufficient for the needs of the area should there be a revision to the pre-war practice of butchers being able to purchase live animals for slaughter and also considering the possible increase in the population of the district and have agreed in principle to such a project. Inspections have been made of such establishments in other districts and the Surveyor has been instructed to proceed so as to have proposals advanced should the possibility arise.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following are the registrations now kept by the Council under the above regulations :—

Number of premises used as dairies within the district	
not being dairy farms	5
Number of persons registered as distributors	8

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district	5
Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk retailed within the district	6
Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Accredited" in relation to milk retailed within the district	—

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district	5
Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk retailed within the district	3
Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district	25

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 :—

UNGRADED MILK

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test .	27	9	36	75
Coliform Test	16	3	19	84.22
B. Tuberculosis ..	24	..	24	100

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test .	9	1	10	90
Coliform Test	5	—	5	100
B. Tuberculosis ..	5	—	5	100

PASTEURISED AND TUBERCULIN TESTED PASTEURISED MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test .	15	2	17	88.23
Phosphatase Test . .	15	1	16	93.75

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.

<i>Producer.</i>	<i>Samples.</i>	<i>Results and Grades.</i>
A.	2	1.1.
B.	3	1.1.1. Local Producer.
C.	1	2.
D.	2	1.1.
E.	4	3.3.4.4.
F.	3	4.4.3.
G.	5	1.1.3.3.1.
H.	5	1.3.4.3.1.
I.	1	1.
J.	1	2.
K.	1	1.
L.	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-1950 of 27,630.

HOUSE REFUSE ONLY.

Estimated quantity removed	18,131 tons
Approximate average weight per house	2.27 tons
Average quantity per house per annum	6.3 cu. yds.
Average per 1,000 pop. per day (365 days)	35.9 cwts.
Total cost of collection (Refuse and Salvage)	£11,155
Cost of disposal	£633
Payment to men when sick	£359
Total Scavenging Costs	£12,147
Less Income from Salvage	£1,470
Nett Scavenging Cost	£10,677
	£ s. d.
Cost per house	1 6 7.9
Cost per head population	7 8.7
Cost on rates in the £	1 8.2

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*. This quarry became filled to the level of the adjoining land during the year. As arrangements had not been completed for the new tip at Whitley Road, mentioned below, we were able to have facilities of filling in a small quarry at Killingworth. This had space for approximately 9 or 10 months and served until the end of the year.
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.

New Tip, Moor Colliery, Whitley Road.

This is a large area of land which is low and bogged and is derelict owing to it not being possible to cultivate and the Council opened negotiations for a lease so as to use for tipping and to reclaim the land for cultivation. This area was rather too large for our own requirements, and as the cost of control of it would be heavy it was decided to assist Gosforth Urban District Council, who had made application for tipping facilities in the area. A meeting was arranged between representatives of both authorities and an amicable arrangement was made whereby the two authorities will tip on this site.

The actual work of tipping and control of the tip will be carried out by the Longbenton Council and Gosforth will pay a percentage of the costs of maintaining the tip.

The Council are aware that it will be necessary to have mechanical equipment in order to deal with the refuse on this tip and have now placed an order for an angle dozer for that purpose.

After protracted negotiations the lease was duly executed and arrangements have been made to commence tipping early in the new year. In addition to 22 acres which have been provisionally leased to the Council there is a considerable amount of land (60 or 70 acres) which can be dealt with in a similar manner and should thereby, in course of time, bring a large area of land back into cultivation.

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.

The question of the free removal of trade refuse was considered by the Council owing to the loss of salvage and it was decided that a charge must be made for the removal of trade refuse. The Council agreed to make a charge of 3d. per bin. In the case of a house and shop one bin is removed free of charge and a charge is made for the additional bins.

SALVAGE.

When the price for waste paper fell this Council decided to maintain their organisation for the collection of paper and the wisdom of this action has now been shown by the great need which has arisen owing to the re-armament programme, etc.

During the year we were able to despatch 167 tons of waste paper, above 11 tons of scrap iron and 5 tons 11 cwts. of clean rags. These materials were sold for £1,470 which was offset against the scavenging cost.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

This Council, having had delegation of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, and the Infestation Order, 1943, from the Northumberland County Council, had an organisation in being to carry out the work of the new Act, which came into force on the 1st March, 1950.

The work is carried out by the foreman and one of the cleansing staff, who have been trained in the work. Systematic treatment is given to the sewers, sewerage disposal works and refuse tips in order to keep large infestations under control.

Individual complaints are investigated and charges made for business premises.

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.





