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Contributors

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Longbenton
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

County of Northumberland.

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR

1952

OF

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM,

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

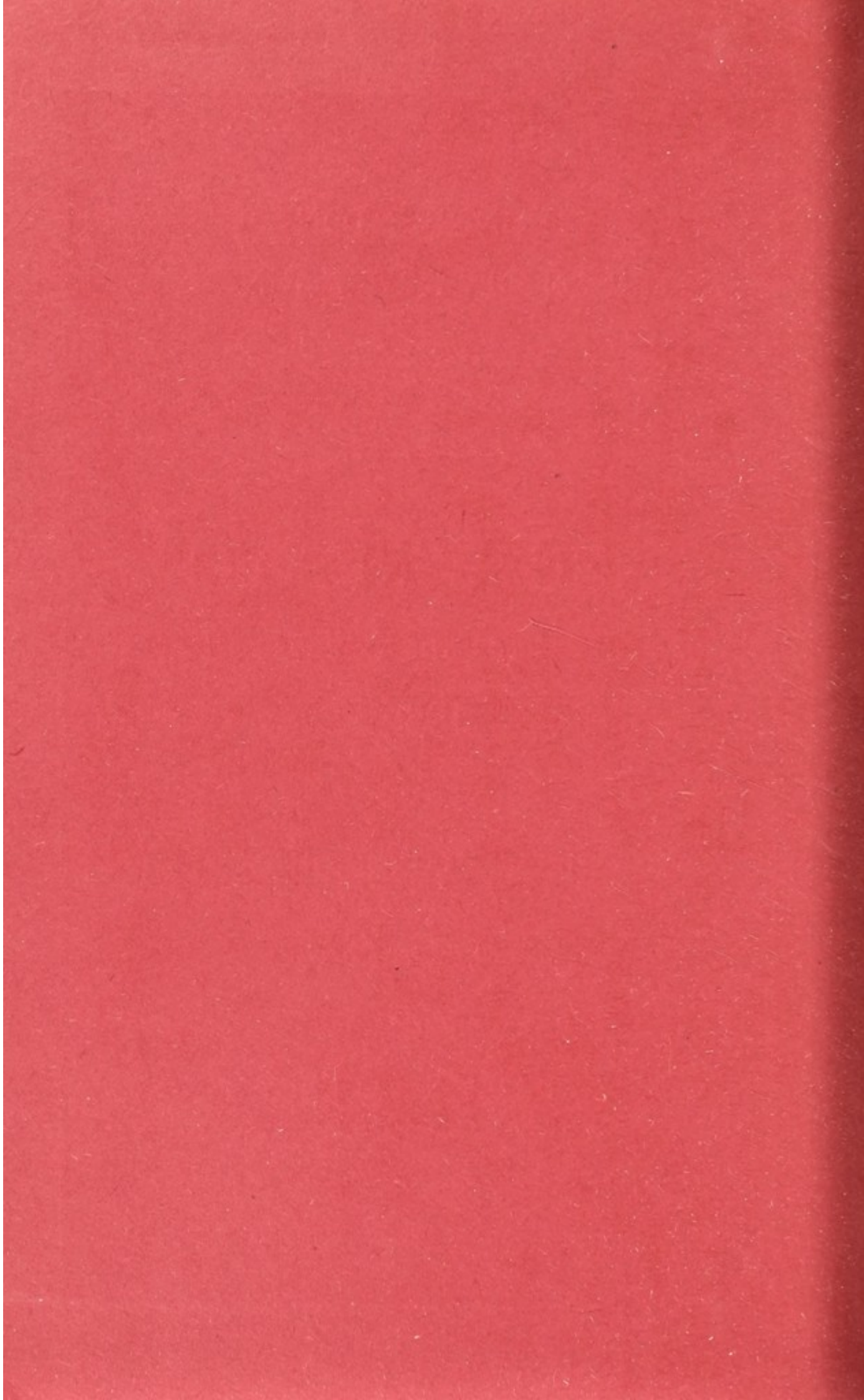
Medical Officer of Health,

AND

WILLIAM N. LOCKEY,

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

Senior Sanitary Inspector.



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

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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.
Assistant Housing Officer	EDWARD MARCH	Cert.Part I. Institute of Housing.

Longbenton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM,

for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

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 1952.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

Mid-year 1952 figures from the Registrar General's Report show an increase in population of 890 as compared with mid-year 1951. This increase can be explained in the main by the re-housing of Newcastle tenants in the new Longbenton Estate, 187 new houses having been occupied during the year.

Births show a decrease of 34. Deaths show a decrease of 16. Infantile Mortality Rate shows an increase from 25.8 per 1,000 live births to 41.76. This compares with the National Rate of 27.6.

The principal causes of death were: —

Diseases of the Heart	98
Cancer of all Types	51
Vascular Lesions of Brain	46

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Details are given on pages 11, 12 and 13.

MILK.

The milk supplies were maintained satisfactorily in quantity and quality. 20 samples were submitted for the presence of B. tuberculosis. One proved "positive." The infected cow was slaughtered.

On the 29th January, the Bacteriologist's Report was received that a sample of milk taken in the district on the 18th December, 1951, had been certified as "B. tuberculosis, present."

The Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was informed immediately. Clinical examination was made and further samples submitted for Biological Test.

In view of the affected cow not having been isolated, notice was served on the farmer under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 prohibiting the sale of raw milk from that farm, the milk being diverted to a pasteurising plant and the farmer drew his supplies from the plant for retail.

Eventually the affected cow was proved by further samples for Biological Test submitted by the Divisional Veterinary Inspector and when the herd was clear the notice under Section 20 was withdrawn.

HOUSING.

390 houses were built during 1952. The picture of overcrowding in the district has shown from year to year an appreciable improvement. Approximately 670 families still need houses of their own, 31/12/52.

WATER SUPPLY.

(1) The water supply throughout the area during 1952 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) Four samples were taken for bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory.

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

(5) The water 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. This department is pressing constantly for the abolishing of standpipes by the provision of inside water supplies.

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 1952	29,270
Number of inhabited houses (31/12/52) according to Rate Book	8,589
Rateable Value	£144,554
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (31/12/52)	£560

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	...	...	217	206	423
Illegitimate	...	...	3	5	8
			<hr/> 220	<hr/> 211	<hr/> 431
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	6	8	14
Illegitimate	...	...	2	1	3
			<hr/> 8	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 17

Comparability Factors: —

Births	...	...	...	...	1.01
Deaths	...	...	...	...	1.13
Live Births per 1,000 Population	...	...	14.72	corrected	14.84
Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	...	37.94	„	38.31

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	9.60	corrected	10.84
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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
	<hr/> nil	<hr/> nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

				Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	13	4	17
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
				<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>18</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE.

Legitimate	...	...	...	7	2	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
				<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>

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

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	41.76
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	40.18
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	125.0

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

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	23.20
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	21.27
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	125.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	51
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LONGBENTON AREA, 1952.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes	159	122
1—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	2
2—Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	1	1
3—Syphilitic diseases	—	—
4—Diphtheria	—	—
5—Whooping Cough	—	—
6—Meningococcal infections	—	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8—Measles	1	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—
10—Cancer of stomach	5	7
11—Cancer of lung and bronchus	5	2
12—Cancer of breast	—	4
13—Cancer of uterus	—	2
14—Cancer of all other sites	19	7
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16—Diabetes	—	—
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	24	22
18—Coronary disease, angina	26	13
19—Hypertension with heart disease	4	—
20—Other heart disease	22	26
21—Other circulatory disease	4	2
22—Influenza	—	—
23—Pneumonia	8	4
24—Bronchitis	5	3
25—Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	1
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	—
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	3
28—Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
29—Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31—Congenital malformations	2	4
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	12	7
33—Motor vehicle accidents	4	2
34—All other accidents	6	5
35—Suicide	1	—
36—Homicide and operations of war	1	—

There is no evidence of any excessive or unusual 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 1952.

(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 Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Enteric Fever	Smallpox	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
ENGLAND AND WALES (1952)	15.3	0.35	11.3	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	1.1	27.6
LONGBENTON (1952) (Cor.)	14.84	0.57	10.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	..	41.76
LONGBENTON (1951) (Cor.)	16.55	0.52	11.43	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00	..	25.80

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	1951	1952
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	25.80	38.31

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) The Ambulance Service is under the jurisdiction of the Northumberland County Council. As from the 1st November, 1952, the Ambulance Service for Longbenton Urban District is centred in Wideopen Depot which also supplies the ambulance needs of the South Area Northumberland County Council.
- (c) Nursing in the home is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.
- (d) Scaffold Hill Hospital is the only hospital in the area. One pavilion in Scaffold Hill Hospital is set aside for the reception of general infectious diseases (30 beds). One pavilion (30 beds) is set aside for the care of aged sick women and one pavilion (19 beds) for the care of aged sick men. This hospital is administered by South East Hospital Management Committee (Northumberland) on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board and I act on the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board's Staff in the dual appointment of Senior Hospital Medical Officer.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47.

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care.

No action was necessary under the above Section.

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.
- (vii) *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 main 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.

The Local Food Traders' Guild is still operative.

- (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 1952.

DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED										Hospital	Deaths
	Age Group											
	At all Ages (1951)	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 ..	83 (38)	—	3	10	51	11	6	2	—	29	—	
Measles ..	219 (393)	15	44	64	91	3	1	1	—	—	—	
Pneumonia ..	6 (29)	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	—	12	
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1 (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ..	41 (81)	3	7	14	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Poliomyelitis ..	9 (2)	2P	2P	2NP	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	
Diphtheria ..	1 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	
Paratyphoid ..	1 (1)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas ..	2 (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	
	363 (548)	20	59	91	158	16	8	11	—	36	12	

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	1951	1952
No. of Cases	39	77	101	30	110	16	10	5	—	2	—	—	1
Deaths ..	2	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.—Nine cases were notified. No deaths occurred.

SCARLET FEVER.—Notifications show an increase of 45 cases. This is in general with the country as a whole.

PNEUMONIA.—Notifications show a decrease of 23.

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

MEASLES.—There is a decrease in the number of cases of Measles notified, 219 in 1952 as against 393 in 1951.

WHOOPING COUGH.—There were 41 cases notified in 1952 as against 81 in 1951.

FOOD POISONING.—There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning in 1952.

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 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, 1952.—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	—	—	—	1	—
5 to 15 years ..	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years ..	9	5	—	—	—	—	—	1
25 to 35 years ..	7	7	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 to 45 years ..	7	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 to 55 years ..	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65 years ..	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	30	19	2	—	2	1	1	1

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, 1952.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
Cases on Register at 1/1/52 ..	149	128	277	40	40	80	357
New Cases ..	30	19	49	2	—	2	51
Cases Removed ..	3	4	7	2	—	2	9
Cases Reinstated ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases on Register at 31/12/52 ..	176	143	319	40	40	80	399

I attribute much of the increase in numbers to transfers from the Newcastle Register of cases (19) re-housed in Benton Lane from Newcastle during 1952.

Longbenton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the Sanitary, Refuse Collection and Housing Department for the year 1952.

HOUSING.—Our records of re-housing in 1952 show that considerable progress was made, a total of 141 new houses were occupied. In addition, notices to quit were received in respect of a further 32 houses. During the allocation of new and of houses which became vacant, tenancies were arranged so as to use them to best advantage.

We were able to effect improved conditions for no less than 275 families.

The Committee used five of the houses available to re-house families from clearance areas or individual unfit houses.

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

POINTS SCHEME.

Categories.	A.	B.	C.	D.	O.P.	Total.
	60	13	38	12	33	156

OTHERS.

Exchanges	...	...	...	...	...	106
Clearance Area	...	...	...	...	...	5
Eviction Orders, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	8
						<hr/> 275 <hr/>

Newcastle Corporation were able to occupy 187 houses on the Benton Lane Estate, these houses are under the control of the Corporation and for the re-housing of families from within the City boundaries.

The following table shows the fluctuation of the number of applications for Council houses between 1/4/49 and 1/1/53:—

<i>Category A.</i>	1/4/49	1/9/49	1/5/50	1/1/51	1/1/52	1/1/53
Applicants with homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions	282	261	255	212	236	205
<i>Category B.</i>						
Applicants without homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions	225	240	213	103	150	138
<i>Category C.</i>						
Applicants without homes of their own but not overcrowded	449	481	503	376	446	532
<i>Category D.</i>						
Normal applicants desiring improved housing accommodation but not overcrowded	477	575	615	582	666	740
	1,433	1,557	1,586	1,273	1,498	1,615

It will be noted that there has been an increase of 117 applicants although 187 were removed during the year from the list owing to re-housing and withdrawals, making a total of new housing applications received during the year to be 304.

A large increase is shown in categories C. and D. 167 of the new applicants have either not been married or resided in the area for two years.

WHITLEY ROAD CAMP.

The permanent military camp at Whitley Road, which was unofficially occupied by squatters in September, 1946, still remains occupied by 22 families. This number is being reduced and we now have permission to demolish huts on becoming vacant so as not to perpetuate this unsatisfactory occupation.

OVERCROWDING.

Only two bad cases of new overcrowding were found during the year. In one instance the man was discharged from a sanatorium and took up residence with his brother and his wife in a one roomed house. Statutory Notice was served and the department was able to arrange for the family to move into a larger private house which had sufficient accommodation.

The other case was caused by a tenant of furnished rooms who had been given notice to quit, having taken his wife and baby to reside with him at his parent's house which was already occupied up to the permitted number.

The tenant was informed by the Clerk that unless the nuisance from overcrowding was abated, legal proceedings were to be taken. The nuisance was abated within one month.

REPAIR OF PRIVATELY OWNED HOUSES.

It is to be noted from the details given in tables Nos. 1, 2 and 3, that a considerable amount of work has been carried out in the repair of privately owned houses. 238 houses were repaired without the service of Statutory Notices. It was necessary to serve Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of 38 houses, in six instances the owners carried out the work and in 31 specifications were prepared and tenders were obtained by advertisement and the work done by builders on behalf of the Council. A further 20, for which tenders had been obtained in 1951 but which were held up because of bad weather, were completed early during the year making a total of 51 houses for which tenders were received to do the work in default of the owners.

The work was supervised by the Department and the final costs charged to the owners.

In one instance a property owner appealed to the County Court to set aside a Notice under Section 9 of the Act. The hearing commenced on the 22nd August, 1952, but was adjourned so that His Honour could make an inspection of the house.

The appellants agreed with all the Council's requirements in the notice, with the exception of the under-pinning and insertion of a damp proof course in the main walls, it being contended that this was too costly a remedy and asked to be permitted to render the walls where the dampness existed with cement and sand to which a water repellant had been added.

Specifications had been prepared by the Department and tenders invited from three builders on the assumption that the work was to be done by the Council in default. The lowest tender for the whole of the work was 110 15s. 10d., and the second £114 9s. 0d. In the priced bill the lowest tenderer had quoted £38 16s. 0d. for the insertion of the damp proof course and the second tenderer £32 16s. 0d. The appellant admitted having received a tender from a private builder for £112. It was also admitted that the rendering suggested would cost £20, therefore, the difference in the cost of the methods suggested was a sum of less than £20.

The adjourned hearing did not take place until 30th June, 1953, following His Honour's inspection of the house on that day and at which both sides were represented. In summing up His Honour established that the case turned on the desirability that this damp proof course should be put in three walls and the rising dampness, therefore, eradicated. In his opinion what the Longbenton Urban District Council required was reasonable. The appeal was dismissed with costs.

It was necessary to serve Statutory Notices, under the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of 76 houses for housing defects, 49 of the notices were complied with by the owners but the Council had to carry out the work in a similar manner to that as under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, in 66 instances, including 39 of which were in progress of being dealt with before the end of 1951.

During the year contracts amounting to £3,775 15s. 4d. were carried out by private builders in respect of work specified by the Department under the Housing and Public Health Acts in default of the owners.

Legal proceedings were taken against one owner on six counts for non-compliance with Abatement Notices served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the abatement of nuisances, convictions were recorded and Nuisance Orders were made on each count.

It is being found increasingly difficult to persuade owners to carry out repairs to property. Tradesmen are difficult to obtain for repair work owing to their being able to earn more than normal building trade rates when working on new houses with incentive bonus schemes and also the difficulties the owners are having to meet the builder's charges. The owners, whose standard rent is fixed at the 1939 level, are having to pay for repairs being carried out at nearly treble 1939 costs. This latter is somewhat the reason for the large number of houses where the work has to be done in default. Owners being unable to meet the accounts are applying to the Council to spread the cost over a period of years.

SECTIONS 11 AND 12 HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Two houses were closed as a result of informal action. The areas in which they are situated are to be treated in the near future as Clearance Areas.

In one further instance a demolition order was made under Section 11 of the Act.

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

The Committee considered the position of recommencement of our Slum Clearance Programme and instructions were received from the Council to inspect some 200 houses which are sub-standard and

appropriate to be dealt with as Clearance Areas. The owners of one block of 51 houses intimated that they would not oppose demolition and they are to be dealt with under Section 11 of the Act in early 1953.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

Applications for Improvement Grant.

Applications were received during the year from nine owner-occupiers for Improvement Grants under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949. Approval was given to eight of the applications, the other was for an improvement to a post-war house and not applicable.

The two outstanding from 1951 and three of the eight were completed before the end of the year, the others were in various stages of completion except one where the work had not been commenced.

The National Coal Board carried out improvements to 143 houses without making application for Improvement Grant, although the standard was such that they could not be recommended for such approval had application been made. The improvement was the installation of an approved type of kitchen range together with back boiler and kitchen sink, therefore, providing the houses with a hot water supply. These houses were provided with an inside water supply, without sinks, in 1950, after representations had been made to the Board by the Council.

TABLE I.

	Number of Inspections during year.	Number of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws.	Number of Informal Notices served.	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 ..	..	1045	121	461	..	770	..
Defective Foodstore ..	..	31	3	8	44	18	6
Dampness ..	..	462	42	141	..	184	..
Overcrowding ..	..	2	2	2	..	..	..
WATER SUPPLY—							
Insufficient ..	88	60	36	16	28	72	..
Unsatisfactory ..	..	64	42	39	3	23	..
DRAINAGE—							
Insufficient ..	353	66	36	17	31	44	..
Unsatisfactory ..	..	88	33	47	11	47	..
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—							
Insufficient ..	846	15	1	15	..	2	..
Defective ..	..	225	72	101	25	182	..
Food Premises ..	186	6	6	5	..	..	..
Shops Acts ..	..	6	2	6	..	..	..
Dairies ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slaughterhouses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tents, Vans, etc. ..	10	2	2	1	..	..	..
Offensive Trades ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Factories and Workplaces ..	22	3	3	2	..	..	..
Keeping of Animals ..	19	3	3	3	..	..	..
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ..	57	59	37	52	4	9	..
Offensive Accumulations ..	18	4	4	3	..	..	..
Smoke Nuisances ..	73	35	14	22	2	27	..
TOTAL ..	4,895	2,176	459	941	148	1,378	6

TABLE II.
HOUSING.

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR 1952.

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority—			
Permanent	174	—	174
Temporary	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons—			
Permanent	187	29	216
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) | 352 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 1 |
| (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 | 351 |

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	238
---	-----

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 | 38 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) By Owners | 6 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | 51 |
| | — |
| | 57 |

(B) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	76
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: —	
(a) By Owners	49
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	66
	— 115

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

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949, Section 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	2
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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	9
(b) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been approved	8

TABLE III.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	By Informal Action.	By Statutory Notice.	Total
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—			
Privies and Privy ashpits abolished.....	15	1	16
“ “ “ “ repaired	—	—	—
Pail Closets abolished	—	—	—
Water Closets provided	15	2	17
Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A., 1936, S.47	15	1	16
Sanitary bins provided	15	1	16
Sanitary bins renewed	37	9	46
DRAINAGE—			
New drains constructed	36	72	108
Drains repaired or reconstructed	33	47	80
Additional gullies provided	9	20	29
Old gullies replaced	2	29	31
Scullery sinks provided	16	72	88
Scullery waste pipes repaired	17	26	43
Scullery waste pipes trapped	1	—	1
Yards repaired or reconstructed ..	14	60	74
WATER SUPPLY—			
Sources closed or discontinued .. 2	No. of Houses	..	3
New Service provided—			
(a) By Local Authority	No. of Houses	..	66
(b) By Private Owner	No. of Houses	..	22
Number of Dwelling Houses supplied by—			
(a) Internal tap	8,186		
(b) Standpipe	246		
(c) Standpipe in yard	237		

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

Further progress was made to have water supply in pipes provided to houses which were previously drawing from standpipes either in the yard or in the street. In 16 instances the Council were able to have the inside water supply, together with sinks and additional drainage provided without recourse to Statutory Notices, but in 72 instances Statutory Notices were served, in 6 of them the owners did the work, and in other 66 the Council did the work in default of the owners and charged the costs.

The average cost of the work for a pair of flats to carry the cold water pipe from the standpipe in the yard, extending the drainage, fitting sinks in both flats was approximately £40, giving an average increase of 9d. per week per tenant. In each instance the landlord was informed prior to the service of the Statutory Notices so that the tenant's agreement could be obtained to the increase in rent.

The proportion of houses now drawing water from common taps as compared with those with inside water supplies has been further reduced by:

1. the erection of new houses which are all provided with inside water supply, sinks and baths,
2. the new inside supplies provided,
3. the demolition of houses in clearance areas where the supply was from a standpipe in the street.

The following table shows the position with regard to water supplies, sinks, baths and W.C.'s, for the whole area. It is to be noted that the houses now drawing water from standpipes in the street have been reduced to 2.8%.

Houses	No. of Houses with						
	Baths	Sinks	Inside Water Supply only	Yard Tap	Common Tap	W.C.'s	E.C.'s
8,589	6,116	7,986	120	237	246	8,577	12

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Four samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, all were reported absence of *B. coli* in 100 m.l., and were satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Our records show that only 12 houses are not connected to the water carriage system. Some of these are on isolated farms where sewerage facilities are not available.

ASHBINS.

Informal notices were served for the replacement of 37 insanitary ashbins. In only four instances it was necessary to serve Statutory Notice under Section 75 of the Act for replacement of nine bins.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

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

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

It was necessary on one occasion for the department to make arrangements for the burial of a person who was reputed to be without means. We were unable to find any assets and the whole of the costs had to be met by the Council.

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 is made for the solution provided. 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 three trailer caravans stationed in the district. All have adequate water supply and sanitary accommodation.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Bye-laws.—Enforcement of the bye-laws for securing the observation of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food for sale for human consumption resulted in the service of informal notices on two premises where dirty conditions were noted. These matters were put in order without recourse to formal action.

EXTRANEOUS MATTER IN FOOD

It was necessary during the year to report four instances of extraneous matter found in food: (1) a cigarette stub in a cake; (2) a wire in a teacake; (3) a piece of tin in a brown loaf; and (4) broken glass in a bottle of milk. Instructions were given to prosecute and in each instance the magistrates convicted.

TABLE IV.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Unsound Food				Sur-rendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
1.	Beef (Home-killed)	..	.. stones	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
2.	Beef (Imported)	..	.. ..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
3.	Mutton (Home-Killed)	..	.. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
4.	Mutton (Imported)	..	.. ..	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—
5.	Pork (Home-Killed)	..	.. ..	—	—	—
6.	Pork (Imported)	..	.. ..	—	—	—
7.	Game	..	.. lbs.	—	—	—
8.	Poultry	..	.. ..	—	—	—
9.	Fish	..	.. ..	—	—	—
10.	Fruit	..	.. ..	20	—	—
11.	Canned Good	..	.. Tins	1,049	—	—
12.	Bacon	..	.. lbs.	7	—	—
13.	Cheese	..	.. ..	—	—	—
14.	Butter	..	.. ..	47	—	—
15.	Lard	..	.. ..	—	—	—
16.	Eggs	..	.. ..	—	—	—
17.	Other foods	..	.. ..	—	—	—

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The principle adopted during the war of slaughtering only in Government controlled slaughterhouses in Newcastle area, only in an emergency slaughter taking place in the district, was still in operation during 1952. 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 keeping quality of the meat.

The haulage contractor engaged to transport the carcasses from Newcastle and to deliver most of the meat to the individual butchers was persuaded to obtain a new container for his lorry which is so designed that the quarters can be hung from rails instead of being stacked on the floor.

The Committee of the Master Butchers' Association and the Department work in close harmony and any suggestions made are willingly accepted.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The Council gave further consideration regarding the provision of a Public Abattoir as the slaughterhouses in the district would not be sufficient to meet requirements should there be a change of policy with regard to the Government control of the slaughter of animals for food.

In order to produce a scheme which would be more economical than one slaughterhouse for this area, overtures have been made to the two adjoining authorities of Gosforth and Seaton Valley Urban District Councils to see if they would be interested in a joint project. Negotiations are still taking place.

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.

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	1
Number of persons registered as distributors	26

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 ...	9
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	9
Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk retailed within the district	6
Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district	12

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 .	13	3	16	81.25
B. Tuberculosis ..	17	1	18	94.44

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test .	5	2	7	71.43
B. Tuberculosis ..	2	—	2	100

PASTEURISED AND TUBERCULIN TESTED PATEURISED MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test .	14	1	15	93.33
Phosphatase Test ..	15	—	15	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 although some difficulty was experienced with the occasional vendors where regular sampling proved impossible.

PRODUCER.	SAMPLES.	RESULT AND GRADES.
A.	2	1.2
B.	3	3.1.2.
C.	3	1.1.2.
D.	2	1.2.
E.	1	1.
F.	1	1.

Sanitary Inspectors of the districts from which the unsatisfactory samples were produced were informed of the Bacteriologist's Reports.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The Council's fleet of six refuse vehicles was found to be sufficient to give a satisfactory service throughout the year. During the holiday period in the summer months, each team has a fortnight's holiday, therefore, the vehicles are reduced to five for a period of 12 weeks and during this time the mechanic gives a thorough overhaul to all machines so as to obviate any of them having to be kept off the road during the winter period when refuse is much heavier.

We were able to maintain regular collection services of at least once per week in the residential districts and twice in the mining areas where the refuse is considerably heavier owing to the miners being supplied with inferior coal.

STATISTICS.

I beg to append below statistics with reference to the refuse collected. The figures are based upon the estimated population for mid 1952, 29,270.

HOUSE REFUSE ONLY.

Estimated quantity removed	...	...	...	17,756 tons.
Approximate average weight per house	...	...	...	2.06 tons.
Average quantity per house per annum	...	...	...	6.45 cu. yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days)	...	...	...	33.2 cwts.
				£
Total cost of collection (Refuse and Salvage)	...	...	...	16,444
Cost of Disposal	...	...	...	941
Total Scavenging Costs	...	...	...	17,385
Less Income from Salvage, Tips, Bins, etc.	...	...	...	2,832
Nett Scavenging Cost	...	...	...	14,553

UNIT COSTS.

	<i>Collection.</i>		<i>Disposal.</i>		<i>Total.</i>	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Gross cost per ton, labour only ...	9	7	2	0	11	7
Gross cost per ton, transport only	5	11	0	3	6	2
Nett cost (all expenditure) ...	15	4	1	1	16	5
	£		£		£	
Nett cost per 1,000 population ...	465		32		497	
Nett cost per 1,000 premises ...	1,525		105		1,630	
				£	s.	d.
Cost per Establishment ...	...	...	...	1	12	7.4
Cost per head population ...	...	...	...	0	9	11
Cost on rates in the £ ...	...	...	...	0	2	1.9

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 in 1952 were:

1. *Burradon Quarry* which has still sufficient space for a number of years to take the refuse from Annitsford, Burradon and Dudley.
2. *Wideopen Quarry.* This quarry was purchased by the Council with the intention of eventually making it into a park and open space for this part of the district. There is still sufficient space for a further 1½ to 2 years.
3. *Old Moor Colliery.* In this instance the tip is in the nature of a reclamation scheme of land which has subsided owing to mining operations. It is bogged and full of reeds and can only be tipped in one layer. An agreement has been drawn up between the Gosforth Urban District Council and this Council for the joint use of the tip, the actual work of control being carried out by this Council, and Gosforth paying 50% of the whole of the costs.

Tipping only takes place at alternate times on the Burradon Quarry and Wideopen Quarry and a man is in attendance whilst tipping is taking place and all tipping is carried out on strictly controlled lines. The tips are kept very free from rats and any outbreaks of fire are quickly dealt with by the angledozer.

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

TRADE REFUSE.

The Council make a charge of 3d. per bin for the removal of trade refuse from wholly business premises. In the case of a house and shop, one bin is removed free of charge and a charge is made for any additional bins. The shopkeepers have objected to the payment of accounts quarterly for the removal of trade refuse, and a ticket system has now been put into operation whereby tickets, equivalent to the number of bins collected, are handed to the collectors at the time of collection.

SALVAGE.

During the year our collection of salvage was almost identical with those of 1951, but, owing to the reduction in the price of waste paper from £16 to £6 10s. 0d. per ton, the income has been reduced by above £1,000 even though we had collected and sold some £240 worth of kitchen waste above the previous year.

Appended below are the weights and values of the materials sold:

			<i>Ton. Cwts.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Kitchen Waste	69	3	£240	18 0
Scrap Metal	12	4	67	0 0
Waste Paper	198	7	1629	2 0
Rags	3	3	111	14 0
Total	282	17	£2,048	14 0

KITCHEN WASTE.

The Council instituted a separate collection of Kitchen Waste. For the initial period 600 individual containers were obtained and a canvass was made of the residents in the most built-up part of the area in close proximity to our Depot.

It is to be noted that there are a large number of small pig-keepers in the area who are members of the Small Pig-keepers' Council, therefore, we are not collecting at each house, as some householders are keeping their kitchen waste for these pig-keepers.

In order to keep the cost to a minimum we were able to obtain the services of a man with a horse and cart at a cost of 30/- per day. The collection costs for the year worked out as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Hire of man, horse and cart	174	6	10
Transport into Newcastle Central Depot	53	14	8
Depreciation on the containers assuming a 5 year average life	60	0	0
	288	1	6
Revenue from Kitchen Waste	240	18	0
which gives a debit balance of ...	£47	3	6

As the scheme progressed it was noted that there was an increase in the amount of kitchen waste collected and as the price had been increased by 7/6 per ton which, together with the extra allowance of 4/6 per ton made by the Newcastle Corporation owing to the distance of haulage, I hope the scheme can be worked without loss.

Upon the Council considering these figures they decided that it would be advisable to put the matter on a more permanent basis and an order was placed for a pedestrian controlled electric vehicle whereby we have the collection more under our own control, which we anticipate will give better results.

A further 600 containers have been ordered so as to extend the scheme and ensure sufficient work for this machine.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

During the year one full treatment and one maintenance treatment was carried out to the sewers in the district. Very few "takes" were noted showing that our sewers are comparatively free from rats. Sewerage disposal works and refuse tips are kept under strict observation and any complaints received are immediately investigated and treatment given. Any investigations in connection with business premises are charged to the occupiers.

In the latter months of the year heavy infestations were found in piggeries. The stock holders were all instructed in the use of Warfarin and were supplied from a stock held at the office on payment. Exceptionally good results were noted. The ease and safety with which this material can be used has been much appreciated by the stock holders.

In treating the sewers and sewerage disposal works we still prefer to use rusk and zinc phosphide.

In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to Mr. G. Hudson, Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. March, Assistant Housing Officer and the clerical staff of the Department for their loyalty and co-operation throughout the year.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM N. LOCKEY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

