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Contributors

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February

LONGBENTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

County of Northumberland.

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR



1953

OF

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

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

WILLIAM N. LOCKEY,
C.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	C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Cert., R.S.I., Sanitary Science Cert.
Additional Sanitary Inspector ...	GEORGE R. HUDSON ...	M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.
Assistant Housing Officer ...	EDWARD MARCH ...	Certificate Part I & II Institute of Housing.

Longbenton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM,

for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

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 1953.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

Mid-year 1953 figures from the Registrar General's Report show an increase in population of 970 as compared with mid-year 1952. This increase can be explained in the main by the rehousing of Newcastle tenants in the new Longbenton Estate, 99 new houses having been occupied during the year.

Births show an increase of 74. Deaths show an increase of 15. Infantile Mortality Rate shows a decrease from 41.76 per 1,000 live births to 23.52. This compares with the National Rate of 26.8.

The principal causes of death were :—

Diseases of the Heart	...	...	...	114
Cancer of all types	...	...	...	46
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	37

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Details are given on pages 11 and 12.

MILK.

The milk supplies were maintained satisfactorily in quantity and quality. 31 samples were submitted for the presence of B. tuberculosis. All proved negative.

HOUSING.

517 houses were built during 1953. The picture of overcrowding in the district has shown from year to year an appreciable improvement. Approximately 489 families still need houses of their own, 1/2/54.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., through the company's mains. The supply has been satisfactory. One sample, out of seven, contained 3 colonies of coliform bacilli per 100 millilitres but check samples proved clear. No faecal coli were found in any sample.

Chemical analysis are made by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

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 1953	30,240
Number of inhabited houses (31/12/53) according to Rate Book	9,022
Rateable Value	£154,865
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (31/12/53) ...	£600

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	266	223	489
Illegitimate	7	9	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	273	232	505
Still Births—Legitimate	6	8	14
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6	9	15

Comparability Factors:—

Births	1.01
Deaths	1.13

Live Births per 1,000 Population ...	16.69 corrected	16.86
Still births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	28.84	29.13

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	9.78 corrected	11.05
----------------------------------------------------------------	----------------	-------

DEATHS.

Total Deaths include 21 cases occurring at Scaffold Hill Hospital of persons not primary residents of this district but assigned to the district.

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

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	9	3	12
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE			
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>

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

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	23.76
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	24.54
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	nil

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

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	13.64
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	14.31
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	46
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LONGBENTON AREA, 1953.

Causes of Death						Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	174	122
1—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...					5	2
2—Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...				—	1
3—Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...			—	1
4—Diphtheria...	...	...	...	...		—	—
5—Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...		1	—
6—Meningococcal infections...	...	...	...			2	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...			—	—
8—Measles	...	...	...	...		—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases	...					—	—
10—Cancer of stomach	...	...	...			4	6
11—Cancer of lung and bronchus	...	...	...			6	—
12—Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...		—	7
13—Cancer of uterus	...	...	...	...		—	—
14—Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...		18	5
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...		—	1
16—Diabetes	...	...	...	...		1	2
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system	...					23	14
18—Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...			21	16
19—Hypertension with heart disease	...					3	2
20—Other heart disease	...	...	...	...		35	37
21—Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...		3	3
22—Influenza	...	...	...	...		—	—
23—Pneumonia	...	...	...	...		6	6
24—Bronchitis	...	...	...	...		5	7
25—Other diseases of respiratory system	...					1	—
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...					3	—
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...					—	—
28—Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...			2	1
29—Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...			2	—
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...					—	—
31—Congenital malformations	...	...	...			2	—
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...					15	9
33—Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...			5	1
34—All other accidents	...	...	...	...		7	1
35—Suicide	...	...	...	...		4	—
36—Homicide and operations of war	...					—	—

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 1953.

(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 (1953).	15.5	0.35	11.4	1.01	0.55	6.01	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	1.1	26.8		
LONGBENTON (1953) (Cor.)	16.52	0.49	11.05	0.00	0.39	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.76		
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		

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	1953
	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	23.76

SECTION B.

- I. (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 Council 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.

I. 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.
- (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.
- (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, 1953.

DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED										Hospital	Deaths
	At all Ages (1952)	Under 1 year	Age Group							Age not known		
			1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and over				
Scarlet Fever	47 (83)	—	1	7	27	8	2	2	—	—	25	—
Measles	319 (219)	7	65	98	144	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	22 (6)	1	—	1	3	1	4	12	—	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	73 (41)	8	17	25	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	— (9)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	— (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningo Infection	1 (—)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	— (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Cryptosporidiasis	1 (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	2 (—)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	468 (363)	18	83	131	197	11	12	16	—	—	27	2

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	1953
No. of cases	39	77	101	30	110	16	10	5	—	2	—	—	1	—
Deaths ...	2	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.—No cases were notified.

SCARLET FEVER.—Notifications show a decrease of 36 cases.

PNEUMONIA.—Notifications show an increase of 16.

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

MEASLES.—There is an increase in the number of cases of Measles notified, 398 in 1953, as against 219 in 1952.

WHOOPING COUGH.—There were 75 cases notified in 1953 as against 41 in 1952.

FOOD POISONING.—There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning in 1953. Only two isolated cases were investigated.

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, 1953.—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	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years ...	7	9	1	1	—	1	—	—
25 to 35 years ...	8	7	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 years ...	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 to 65 years ...	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 years and over	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
	26	19	7	3	4	2	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, 1953.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
Cases on Register at 1/1/53. ...	176	143	319	40	40	80	399
New Cases ...	26	19	45	7	3	10	55
Cases Removed	8	6	14	2	—	2	16
Cases on Register at 31/12/53 ...	194	156	350	45	43	88	438

I have at every Public Health Committee Meeting drawn the attention of the Members to the number of cases of Tuberculosis of lungs transferred from Newcastle upon Tyne to Benton Lane Estate which re-houses Newcastle residents. Total number of new cases was 55 and of these 25 were transfers from the Tuberculosis Register of Newcastle to our Register.

Longbenton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

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 Departments for the year 1953.

HOUSING.—Our records of re-housing in 1953 show that considerable progress was made, a total of 342 new houses were occupied. In addition, notices to quit were received in respect of a further two 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 467 families.

The Committee used 69 of the houses available to re-house families from clearance areas or individual unfit houses.

SPECIAL HOUSING OF MINERS.

The Council made 31 new houses available for the housing of miners who were either transferred into the area or who were travelling long distances to work at mines in the urban area.

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

POINTS SCHEME.

Categories	A	B	C	D & OP	Total
	88	31	86	39	244
OTHERS—					
Exchanges ...	...	...	...	...	114
Clearance Areas ...	...	...	...	...	69
Eviction Orders and Special allocation to Miners	...	...	...	...	40
					<hr/> 467 <hr/>

Newcastle Corporation did not make so much progress in occupying houses on the Longbenton Estate during 1953, 99 only being occupied as against 187 in 1952. These houses are under the control of the Corporation and for the re-housing of families from within the City boundaries.

Private builders, building for sale, were able to complete and have occupied 76 houses by private purchasers, thus a total of 517 new houses were provided and occupied during the year. Demolition took place in 78 instances, 77 of which had been dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, during 1953 as Individual Unfit Houses.

The following table shows the fluctuation of the number of applications for Council Houses between 1/4/49 and 1/2/54 :—

	1/4/49	1/9/49	1/5/50	1/1/51	1/1/52	1/1/53	1/2/54
CATEGORY ' A '							
Applicants with homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions	282	261	255	212	236	205	116
CATEGORY ' B '							
Applicants without homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions	225	240	213	103	150	138	24
CATEGORY ' C '							
Applicants without homes of their own but not overcrowded	449	481	503	376	446	532	465
CATEGORY ' D '							
Normal applicants desiring improved housing accommodation but not overcrowded	477	575	615	582	666	740	717
	1433	1557	1586	1273	1498	1615	1322

HOUSING MANAGEMENT.

The Management of Council Houses was divorced from the Sanitary Inspection Department on the 1/1/54 by the creation of a Housing Department and Mr. E. March, who had been the Housing Assistant in the Sanitary Inspector's Department he having obtained the qualifications of the Institute of Housing, in Housing Management, was appointed Housing Manager.

The lists above, showing the numbers and types of accommodation occupied by applicants at 1/2/54 have been prepared by Mr. March following a review of all applications, notice was made in the press and local shop windows requiring all existing applicants to renew their applications before the 1st January, 1954, should they desire to do so. Those who re-applied are in most urgent need of housing accommodation. It is expected, in future, that the Housing Manager will allow the publication of records of his department with our Annual Report.

It will be noted there has been a reduction in the total number of applications. After deducting 250 who have been re-housed the figure is still 43 less than at 1/1/53 although 586 new applications were received. It would, therefore, appear that some 736 on the 1953 list did not re-apply.

The standard adopted in this district for overcrowding is higher than that laid down in the Housing Act, 1936. The following shows a comparison of the two standards:—

LONGBENTON.	HOUSING ACT.
<i>Overcrowded.</i>	<i>Overcrowded.</i>
2 Persons, 1 room.	2½ Persons, 1 room.
3 Persons, 2 rooms.	3½ Persons, 2 rooms.
4½ Persons, 3 rooms.	5½ Persons, 3 rooms.
6½ Persons, 4 rooms.	7½ Persons, 4 rooms.

Our figures show that now 116 tenants with separate accommodation are overcrowded according to our standard and only 24 where sub-tenants are residing in overcrowded accommodation. It may be that there are others in the district who are overcrowded and have not made application for a Council house but I feel that this number will be comparatively small. The figure for families who are living in rooms or with relations has been reduced from 670 at the 1st January, 1953, to 489 at 1st February, 1954, and of these 149 do not qualify for consideration in 1954 owing to either their not having been married two years or not having resided in the area for a period of two years.

Exchanges were arranged during the allocation of new houses so that overcrowded families were moved into larger houses and where families have been reduced, less accommodation has been given, especially where existing tenants of Council houses have now retired and were transferred into houses built specially for aged persons. By this system the larger, older houses were used to better advantage than in the past and the new houses provided were, in consequence, of the smaller sizes.

Overcrowding in the Council houses in this area is practically non-existent.

WHITLEY ROAD CAMP.

The permanent military camp at Whitley Road, which was unofficially occupied by squatters in September, 1946, still remains occupied by 13 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.

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. 117 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 42 houses, in 28 instances the owners carried out the work and in 14 specifications were prepared and tenders were obtained by advertisement and the work done by builders on behalf of the Council.

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

The Finance Committee, on occasions, considered the position of the large amount of debt which was accruing from charges for work in default of the owners. Work to the cost of £3,775 15s. 4d. was carried out in 1952 and to finance the same a loan for £3,000 had to be raised. The Public Health Committee, in an effort to keep these costs to a minimum decided, where possible, to take action under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and although this was not operated in all instances, legal proceedings had to be taken against owners on 13 counts during the year. In each instance orders were made for the work to be done and fines totalling £30 plus costs and £15 15s. 0d. Advocate's Fees imposed. Informations were laid in five other instances but this work was completed prior to the hearing and were withdrawn.

Work was done in default, under Section 9 of the Act, in some six self-contained houses and four pairs of flats at a cost of £771 7s. 2d. and W.Cs. were repaired under Section 45 of the Act at three houses at a cost of £40 8s. 11d.

In considering the two methods of dealing with housing repairs I feel that it is most satisfactory to work under Section 9 of the Housing Act if the property has an anticipated sanitary life of 20/30 years. It has been found that to do the work under the Nuisance Clauses, Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, a considerable time must elapse before taking proceedings and,

even when the order is made, it is usual to allow a further period of one or two months in which to do the work and the money which has to be expended on fines and Advocate's Fees would be better used for the payment of the repairs. A considerable amount of time has to be spent by members of the department in the preparing of the evidence, laying of the information and attending the Court for the Hearing, which is as much, if not more than that spent in the preparation of specifications, inviting tenders and supervising the builders doing the work.

A large number of property owners are more willing for the local authority to do the work in default as they are aware that competitive prices are obtained to do so, the work is supervised and when the final costs are submitted, even though 5 per cent is added for establishment, they are able to ask the Council to spread the cost over a period of years.

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

The instructions of the Committee in 1952 to re-commence our Slum Clearance Programme resulted in a large number of houses, some 200, being inspected with the intention of a rota being prepared of the order in which the various areas were to be treated. In the first instance, three areas have been dealt with as Individual Unfit Houses and re-housing took place during the latter part of 1953. Further schemes are to be prepared but in basing my experience on pre-war when large numbers were included in confirmed areas and re-housing did not take place for some time, in some instances owing to hostilities until after the war, it is intended to work in close collaboration with the Housing Committee and keep the numbers of properties included in Clearance Areas or as Individual Unfit Houses in proportion to the houses which can be provided within a reasonable time and, therefore, obviate the invidious position of having houses in confirmed clearance areas occupied for long periods.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.—APPLICATION FOR IMPROVEMENT GRANT.

Applications were received during the year from seven owner/occupiers and one owner who had the house tenanted for Improvement Grants under Section 20 of the Act, one only was rejected and seven were approved. Application was also received from the Northumberland Aged Mineworkers' Homes Association for grants under Section 31 of the Act for the improvement of 30 of their cottages within the area.

The work was completed at five houses outstanding at the end of 1952 and also at five granted during the year, one was in progress of being dealt with and in one instance the work has not yet been commenced.

TABLE 1.

	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
Defective Food Store
Dampness
Overcrowding
WATER SUPPLY—							
Insufficient
Unsatisfactory
DRAINAGE							
Insufficient
Unsatisfactory
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—							
Insufficient
Defective
Food Premises
Shops Acts
Dairies
Slaughter Houses
Tents, Vans, etc.
Offensive Trades
Factories and Workplaces
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles
Offensive Accumulations
Smoke Nuisances
Keeping of Animals
TOTAL	3599	489	143	640	70	454	13

TABLE II,
HOUSING.

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1953.

Houses Completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
By Local Authority	342	—	342
By any other Housing Authority	99	—	99
By private persons	—	76	76
Total			517

Total number of Inhabited Houses in District, 9,022.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

A. FORMAL ACTION.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (1) Number of houses demolished during 1953 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action | 77 |
| (Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) ... | 1 |
| (2) Number of houses <i>closed</i> but not demolished as a result of formal action | — |

B. INFORMAL ACTION.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above | 1 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|

RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Number of houses made fit during 1953 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) As a result of Informal Action | 167 |
| (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ... | 42 |
| (c) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | 14 |

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—HOUSING ACT, 1949.

- | | Number of separate houses |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year | 38 |
| (b) Applications rejected by Local Authority ... | 1 |
| (c) Applications forwarded to Ministry | *37 |
| (d) Applications rejected by Ministry | nil |
| (e) Applications approved | 37 |
| (f) Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme | 48 |

* Sec. 20—7.
Sec. 31—30.

TABLE III.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—			
Privies and Privy Ashpits abolished	1	—	1
" " " " repaired	—	—	—
Pail-Closets abolished	—	—	—
Water-Closets provided	1	—	1
Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A. 1936, S. 47	—	—	—
Sanitary Bins provided	—	—	1
Sanitary Bins renewed	28	5	33
DRAINAGE—			
New Drains constructed	—	12	12
Drains repaired or reconstructed	36	8	44
Additional Gullies provided	20	12	32
Old Gullies replaced	—	—	—
Scullery Sinks provided	—	12	12
Scullery Waste Pipes repaired	9	4	13
Scullery Waste Pipes trapped	—	—	—
Yards repaired or reconstructed	3	6	9

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The proportion of houses now drawing water from common taps as compared with those with inside supplies have been further reduced by the large number of new houses which have been built and which are all provided with inside water supply, sinks and baths, and the demolition of individual unfit houses which were supplied 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 supply from standpipes in the street have been reduced to 1.9 per cent.

Houses	No. of Houses with						
	Baths	Sinks	Inside Water Supply only	Yard Tap	Common Tap	W.C.s.	E.C's.
9,022	6,833	8,503	120	230	169	9,010	12

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Seven samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, six were reported as absence of B. coli in 100 M.L. The other sample showed three colonies per 100 M.L.

Check samples showed the supply to be satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Our records showed that only 12 houses in the district are not connected to the water carriage system. In 19 instances informal notices were served calling for repairs to W.Cs. and in 9, Statutory Notices had to be served. In 3 of the latter the work had to be done in default.

ASHBINS.

Informal Notices were served for the replacement of 28 insanitary ashbins. It was necessary in 5 instances to serve Statutory Notices under Section 75 of the Act.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

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

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. *Section 50, National Assistance Act, 1948.*

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 for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and the Sale of Food in the Open Air.

Routine inspections of the food premises and to vans retailing throughout the district took place during the year. It was unnecessary to take any formal action for the enforcement of the bye-laws.

Contravention of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

It was necessary during the year to report three instances of contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, as follows :—

1. Cigarette stub in sweet lollipop.
2. Cellophane packet of four bridge pies found upon being opened to have developed mould spots.

In these two instances instructions were given to take legal proceedings against the persons concerned and convictions were obtained.

In the third instance, of minute insects in a jar of pickles, an inspection of the remainder of the shop keeper's stock of some $\frac{1}{2}$ gross jars from the same producer did not show insects present in any. The insects were examined by Dr. Burt of the Zoological Department, King's College, (to whom I would like to tender my thanks for expert advice on this and other similar occasions) who informed me that these minute beetles, about the size of a pin head, were normally found in warehouses where vegetables and cereals were stored. The producer was informed of this matter and he suggested that the lid of this jar may have become loose in transit and been replaced by either the wholesaler or retailer. The Public Health Committee were of the opinion that it was doubtful where the contamination had taken place and decided not to take legal proceedings.

TABLE IV.
FOOD INSPECTION.

Unsound Food	Sur-rendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
1. Beef (Home-Killed) ...stones	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—
2. Beef (Imported) ... "	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—
3. Mutton (Home-Killed) ... "	17	—	—
4. Mutton (Imported) ... "	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
5. Pork (Home-Killed) ... "	1	—	—
6. Pork (Imported)... ... "	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
7. Game lbs.	—	—	—
8. Poultry "	—	—	—
9. Fish "	—	—	—
10. Fruit "	93	—	—
11. Canned Goods ... Tins	1057	—	—
12. Bacon lbs.	—	—	—
13. Cheese "	—	—	—
14. Butter "	—	—	—
15. Lard "	—	—	—
16. Eggs (frozen and powdered) ..	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
17. Flour "	96	—	—
18. Sugar "	70	—	—
19. Other Foods "	62	—	—

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The entire meat supply of the district was received from a Government controlled abattoir in Newcastle and only in an emergency was there any slaughter of animals, other than cottager's pigs, carried out in the area.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

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

Number of persons registered as distributors ... 41

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 4

Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk retailed within the district 8

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

Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" and "T.T. Pasteurised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district	13
Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" and "T.T. Pasteurised" in relation to milk retailed within the district	11
Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district	31

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	Un-satisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test	1	1	2	50
B. Tuberculosis ...	9	—	9	100

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test	1	1	2	50
B. Tuberculosis ...	10	—	10	100

PASTEURISED AND TUBERCULIN TESTED PASTEURISED MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test	12	—	12	100
Phosphatase Test ...	12	—	12	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.	4	1.1.1.2.
B.	3	1.1.2.
C.	3	1.1.1.
D.	—	—
E.	—	—
F.	4	1.1.1.1.
G.	1	1.
H.	1	2.

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. In all 5,257 loads of refuse were collected at an average weight of 3 Tons 10 cwts. Tests weighings were made during the year.

STATISTICS.

I beg to append below statistics with reference to the refuse collected. The figures are based upon the estimated population for mid-1953, 30,240.

HOUSE REFUSE ONLY.

Estimated quantity removed...	...	...	18,399 tons.
Approximate average weight per house	...	...	2.03 tons.
Average quantity per house per annum.	...	...	6.11 cu. yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days)	...	...	33.3 cwts.

Total cost of collection (Refuse, Salvage and Kitchen Waste)	£
	15,589
Cost of Disposal	1,248
Total Scavenging Costs	16,837
	<hr/>
Less Income from Salvage, Tips, Bins, etc.	2,289
	<hr/>
Nett Scavenging Cost	14,548
	<hr/>

UNIT COSTS.

(Income from Salvage, etc., Credited one third to Disposal, two-thirds to Collection—In nett costs only).

	Collection		Disposal		Total	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Gross cost per ton, labour only	9	9.8	1	6.2	11	4
Gross cost per ton, transport only	5	6.1	—	8.5	6	2.6
Nett cost (all expenditure)	15	3.4	—	6.3	15	9.7
	<hr/>					
		£		£		£
Nett cost per 1,000 population		465		16		481
Nett cost per 1,000 premises		1558		54		1612
		<u>1503</u>		<u>53</u>		<u>1556</u>
				£	s.	d.
Cost per Establishment				1	12	2.8
Cost per head population					9	7.3
Cost on rates in the £					2	0.2
Average cost for emptying of one bin						6.5

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 1953 were :

1. *Burradon Quarry.* This 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 1 to 1½ 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 per cent. 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 angle-dozer.

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 collections of waste paper and kitchen waste increased from 198 Tons 7 cwts. to 225 Tons 18 cwts. and 69 Tons 3 cwts. to 119 Tons 16 cwts. respectively, although the gross amount received for the waste paper was reduced from £1,629 2s. 0d. to £1,474 12s. 0d. owing to the fall in the price received for paper. There was an increase, however, in the amount received for kitchen waste which amounted to £274 10s. 4d. In all the total tonnage received for all materials was 353 tons as against 282 tons in 1952 but the value was only increased by £30 to £2,078 2s. 11d. Appended below are the weights and values of materials sold.

				Tons.	cwts.	Value.		
						£	s.	d.
Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	119	16	515	8	4
Scrap Metal	...	...	...	5	7	35	15	7
Waste Paper	...	...	...	225	18	1471	12	0
Rags ...	...	...	...	2	3	55	7	0
				<hr/>		<hr/>		
			Total	...	353	4	2078	2 11

KITCHEN WASTE.

The scheme of collection from individual containers was further extended during the year by the installing in new housing estates of containers which were purchased in 1952 for that purpose. The amount collected, as previously noted, has been increased by some 50 Tons. The Newcastle Corporation were unable to dispose of the processed pig food and stopped taking the raw kitchen waste from outside authorities in September. It was then necessary for us to obtain a market for raw kitchen waste and the Ministry agreed to determine the Direction requiring us to sell to the concentrator plant.

It is satisfactory to report, however, that the price received for the raw kitchen waste, £4 10s. 0d. per ton, was better than that obtained from delivery to the concentrator plant and the haulage to the plant was obviated.

The following shows the costs of working the scheme and the revenue obtained. It will be noted that there is a slight loss of £5 on the scheme but it must be taken into consideration that had this 119 tons of kitchen waste not been collected separately it would have been to collect and dispose of as house refuse, therefore, on the generale principle it would appear that the scheme is solvent.

					£	s.	d.
Loan Charges	...	...	...	...	137	0	0
Tax and Insurance on Vehicle	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
Wages and On cost	...	...	...	...	265	0	0
Repairs	...	...	...	...	13	0	0
Haulage	...	...	...	...	98	0	0
					<hr/>		
					521	0	0
					£	s.	d.
Revenue from Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	...	516	8	6

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.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Particulars of samples of Food and Drugs taken in the Longbenton Urban District for analysis during the year 1953, appended below, were kindly provided by Mr. C. L. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector. All the samples taken were declared by the Public Analyst to be genuine.

Food and Drugs Samples.

Sample	Genuine	Adulterated
Almond Cake Marzipan	1	—
Almond Mixture	1	—
Anchovy Paste	1	—
Arrowroot	1	—
Aspirin	1	—
Baked Beans in Tomato Sauce	1	—
Beans in Tomato with Pork Sausages	1	—
Beef Sausages	4	—
Beef Sausage Meat	1	—
Beef Steak Pudding	1	—
Beef Suet	1	—
Black Pudding	1	—
Bronchial Mixture	1	—
Celery Cheese Spread	1	—
Chocolate Slices	1	—
Chopped Pork	1	—
Christmas Pudding	1	—
Condensed Milk	1	—
Cough Mixture	1	—
Cough Syrup	1	—
Cream of Tartar	1	—
Cream of Tomato Soup	2	—
Crystallised Fruit Drops	1	—
Dolly Mixtures	1	—
Flour	2	—
Full Cream Unsweetened Evaporated Milk	1	—
Gin	1	—
Glycerine B.P.	2	—
Glycerine, Lemon and Honey	1	—
Grape Fruit Crush	1	—
Ground Almonds	1	—
Ground White Pepper	1	—
Ice Cream	5	—
Jelly Squares	1	—
Luncheon Meat	1	—
Macedoine	1	—
Malt Vinegar	7	—
Maralyn	1	—

	Sample				Genuine	Adulterated
Meat Paste	2	—
Milk	117	—
Milk Chocolate	1	—
Mincemeat	1	—
Mince and Peas	1	—
Minced Beef Loaf	1	—
Orange Jelly	1	—
Orange Marmalade...	1	—
Peach Melba Spread	1	—
Pies	1	—
Pork Luncheon Meat	1	—
Pork Sausages	5	—
Pure Coffee	1	—
Ravioli	1	—
Rum	1	—
Semolina	1	—
Steak and Kidney Pudding	1	—
Sweet Cigarettes	1	—
Sweetened Orange Drink	1	—
Swiss Roll	1	—
Table Jelly Crystals	1	—
Tea	1	—
Whisky	1	—
Yeast	1	—
Zinc and Caster Oil B.P.	1	—
					200	—
					—	—

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.

