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Contributors

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Longbenton
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

County of Northumberland.



ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR

1954

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., Sanitary Science Cert., R.S.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	GEORGE R. HUDSON ... (Resigned 10/1/54)	M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	ROBERT P. BRUCE ... (Commenced 1/2/54)	M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Cert.

Longbenton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM,

for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

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 1954.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

Mid-year 1954 figures from the Registrar General's Report show an increase in population of 2,140 as compared with mid-year 1953. This increase can be explained in the main by the re-housing of Newcastle tenants in the new Longbenton Estate, 632 new houses having been occupied during the year.

Births show an increase of 42. Deaths show an increase of 20. Infantile Mortality Rate shows an increase from 23.76 per 1,000 live births to 25.41. This compares with the National Rate of 25.5.

The principal causes of death were :—

Diseases of the Heart	...	...	...	101
Cancer of all types	...	...	...	63
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	44

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Details are given on pages 10 and 11.

MILK.

The milk supplies were maintained satisfactorily in quantity and quality.

HOUSING.

1,076 houses were built during 1954. The picture of overcrowding in the district has shown from year to year an appreciable improvement. Approximately 565 families still need houses of their own, 1/2/55.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., through the company's mains. The supply has been satisfactory. 16 samples were taken, none of which showed faecal coli.

Chemical analysis are made by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

A scheme for the provision of inside water supply to houses previously drawing from standpipes in the street has been carried out and the number now with such an outside water supply are at a minimum. Most of these are included in prospective clearance areas.

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 1954	32,380
Number of inhabited houses (31/12/54) according to Rate Book	9,789
Rateable Value (31/3/55)	£176,791
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (31/3/55) ...	£720

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	290	249	539
Illegitimate	6	2	8
	<hr/> 296	<hr/> 251	<hr/> 547
Still Births—Legitimate	11	8	19
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 19

Comparability Factors:—

Births	0.97
Deaths	1.18
Live Births per 1,000 Population ...	16.83 corrected 16.52
Still births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	33.57 ,, 31.46

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the
estimated population 9.75 corrected 11.5

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/> 0.00

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR
OF AGE

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	8	6	14
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS
OF AGE

Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>

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

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	25.41
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	25.97
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	14.62
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	14.84
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	63
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LONGBENTON AREA, 1954.

Causes of Death						Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	171	145
1—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...					3	—
2—Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...				—	—
3—Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...		—	—
4—Diphtheria...	...	...	...	...		—	—
5—Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...		—	1
6—Meningococcal infections...	...	...	...	...		—	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...		—	—
8—Measles	...	...	...	...		—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases	...					—	1
10—Cancer of stomach	...	...	...	...		8	3
11—Cancer of lung and bronchus	...	...	...	...		13	1
12—Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...		1	5
13—Cancer of uterus	...	...	...	...		—	4
14—Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...		14	14
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...		—	—
16—Diabetes	...	...	...	...		—	—
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system	...					24	20
18—Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...		27	16
19—Hypertension with heart disease	...					1	1
20—Other heart disease	...	...	...	...		23	33
21—Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...		2	4
22—Influenza	...	...	...	...		2	—
23—Pneumonia	...	...	...	...		4	6
24—Bronchitis	...	...	...	...		10	4
25—Other diseases of respiratory system	...					1	1
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...					1	1
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...					—	—
28—Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...		2	—
29—Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...		2	—
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...					—	—
31—Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...		1	3
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...					20	22
33—Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...		3	1
34—All other accidents	...	...	...	...		4	4
35—Suicide	...	...	...	...		5	—
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.

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 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.

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.
- (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, 1954.

DISEASES	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED										Hospital	Deaths
	At all Ages (1953)	Age Group								Age not known		
		Under 1 year	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and over				
Scarlet Fever	25 (47)	—	1	7	12	5	—	—	—	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	183 (73)	11	37	56	75	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	72 (319)	2	11	15	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	18 (22)	—	1	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	1	10
Paratyphoid	1 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	3 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningo Infection	1 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	— (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	— (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	— (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	4 (—)	—	1P	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1 (—)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	308 (467)	14	51	79	138	10	1	15	—	—	5	11

The following table shows the number of bacteriological specimens from the Longbenton Area examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, during 1954.

Examination Requested.	Positive	Negative.	Total.
Vincent's Angina	—	3	3
Diphtheria	—	3	3
Haemolytic Strep.	1	2	3
Tuberculosis Sputa	2	10	12
Enteric Group	2	9	11
Clinical Specimens	2	2	4
	7	29	36

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.—4 cases were notified, 3 paralytic and 1 non-paralytic.

SCARLET FEVER.—Notifications show a decrease of 22 cases.

PNEUMONIA.—Notifications show a decrease of 4 cases.

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, 72 in 1954, as against 319 in 1953.

WHOOPING COUGH.—There were 183 cases notified in 1954 as against 73 in 1953.

FOOD POISONING.—There were no cases of Food Poisoning in 1954.

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 was one case 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, 1954.—The following Tables are self explanatory :—

	CASES NOTIFIED				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years ...	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	8	8	3	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	11	19	—	3	—	—	—	—
25 to 44 years ...	25	31	—	1	—	—	—	—
45 to 64 years ...	7	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Age not known ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	56	60	3	6	3	—	—	—

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, 1954.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
Cases on Register at 1/1/54. ...	194	156	350	45	43	88	438
New Cases ...	20	19	39	1	3	4	43
Cases transferred into area from other areas ...	36	41	77	2	3	5	82
Cases Removed	16	2	18	—	2	2	20
Cases on Register at 31/12/54 ...	234	214	448	48	47	95	543

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 125 and of these 82 were transfers from the Tuberculosis Registers of other Authorities.

CATEGORY ' B '	1/4/49	1/9/49	1/5/50	1/1/51	1/1/52	1/1/53	1/2/54	1/2/55
Applicants without homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions	225	240	213	103	150	138	24	15
CATEGORY ' C '								
Applicants without homes of their own but not overcrowded	449	481	503	376	446	532	465	550
CATEGORY ' D '								
Normal applicants desiring improved housing accommodation but not overcrowded	477	575	615	582	666	740	717	761
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1433	1557	1586	1273	1498	1615	1322	1424
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

REPAIR OF PRIVATELY OWNED HOUSES.

It is still with difficulty that owners can have repairs carried out, most of the tradesmen are desirous of working on new house building so as to participate in incentive bonus schemes, therefore denuding the jobbing builder of tradesmen. Up to the end of the year very little advantage had been taken of the Housing Rents and Repair Act, 1954, by landlords and a concensus of opinion appears to be that it is not advantageous to invoke the Act to claim the extra rent as it is likely to cost much more to carry out repairs necessary to do so. It will be noted from the details given in tables 1, 2 and 3 that we were still able to have work carried out at 147 houses without the service of statutory notices, in 16 instances notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, in 5 the owners carried out the work specified but the other 11 specifications were prepared in the department and tenders accepted by the Council to do the work in default. Notices were also served under the Public Health Act, 1936, in 35 instances, 23 of which were complied with by the Council in default.

HOUSING ACT, 1949. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Applications were received and approved for a further 10 Improvement Grants from owner/occupiers.

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	1931	486	103	243	17	268	—
Dampness ...	...	20	1	11	—	11	—
Overcrowding ...	...	78	10	62	1	67	—
WATER SUPPLY—							
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unsatisfactory ...	299	19	8	17	1	3	—
DRAINAGE							
Insufficient ...	...	83	71	13	—	14	—
Unsatisfactory ...	175	38	18	31	3	7	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—							
Defective ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Insufficient ...	170	148	24	70	13	93	—
Food Premises ...	401	29	6	18	—	—	—
Shops Act ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies ...	75	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses ...	373	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, and Sheds ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Factories and Workplaces ...	68	3	1	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	49	25	25	21	4	4	—
Keeping of Animals ...	17	4	1	4	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations ...	12	4	4	4	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ...	40	3	3	3	—	—	—
TOTAL	3612	940	275	497	39	467	—

TABLE II.
HOUSING.

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1954.

Houses Completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
By Local Authority	270	—	270
By any other Housing Authority	632	—	632
By private persons	—	174	174
Total			1076

Total number of Inhabited Houses in District, 9,789.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

A. FORMAL ACTION.

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of houses demolished during 1954 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action | 24 |
| (Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) ... | 12 |
| (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 | — |
|---|---|

RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Number of houses made fit during 1954 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) As a result of Informal Action | 147 |
| (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ... | 40 |
| (c) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | 34 |

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—HOUSING ACT, 1949.

- | | Number of separate houses |
|--|---------------------------|
| (a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year | 10 |
| (b) Applications rejected by Local Authority ... | — |
| (c) Applications forwarded to Ministry | — |
| (d) Applications rejected by Ministry | — |
| (e) Applications approved | 10 |
| (f) Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme | 63 |

ASHBINS.

Informal notices were served for the replacement of 21 insanitary ashbins. It was necessary in three instances to serve Statutory Notices under Section 75 of the Act in two of which bins had to be installed by the Council in default.

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 two occasions for the Department to make arrangements for the burial of persons who were reputed to be without means.

ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG.

Bad infestations of the bed bug are a rarity in the district, even so, all furniture is treated by a solution of D.D.T. in Kerosene, prior to being moved into Council houses.

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 food premises and to vans retailing throughout the district took place during the year. A large number of the latter are at present retailing on the Benton Lane Estate, especially that part of the estate which has not yet been provided with a shopping centre. It was unnecessary to take 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 two instances of contravention of the Food and Drugs Act, as follows :—

1. Nail in a biscuit.
2. Slaughter of two pigs on unlicensed premises.

The Council decided that legal proceedings be taken against the persons concerned and convictions were obtained.

TABLE IV.
FOOD INSPECTION.

Unsound Food	Sur-rendered	Seized	Legal Pro-ceedings
1. Beef (Home-Killed) ...stones	560 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—
2. Beef (Imported)	12	—	—
3. Mutton (Home-Killed)	30 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—
4. Mutton (Imported)	—	—	—
5. Pork (Home-Killed)	184 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
6. Pork (Imported)... ..	—	—	—
7. Game lbs.	—	—	—
8. Poultry	—	—	—
9. Fish	—	—	—
10. Fruit	57	—	—
11. Canned Goods Tins	714	—	—
12. Bacon lbs.	—	—	—
13. Cheese	—	—	—
14. Butter	—	—	—
15. Lard	—	—	—
16. Eggs (frozen and powdered) ..	—	—	—
17. Flour	—	—	—
18. Sugar	—	—	—
19. Other Foods	—	—	—

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924—1952.

There are five licensed slaughterhouses in the district, at three of which regular slaughtering takes place.

Private slaughtering commenced 2nd July, 1954.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNATIONS.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lamb	Pigs
Number Killed	844	67	264	3748	1637
Number Inspected	844	67	264	3748	1637
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	4	3	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	247	11	—	15	178
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	29.26%	16.41%	1.51%	0.48%	11.05%
Total weight of meat and offal con- demned (lbs.)	2452	458	102	424	1437
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organs were condemned ...	43	9	—	—	62
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	5.45%	13.43%	—	—	3.84%
Total weight of meat and offal con- demned (lbs.)	4521	313	—	—	1146

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 ... 44

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 —

Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk retailed within the district 4

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 16

Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" and "T.T. Pasteurised" in relation to milk retailed within the district 9

Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district 30

Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises outside the district 1

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Samples of milk from each supply were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination and Biological Test.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The Council's fleet of seven 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 six 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 5,685 loads of refuse were collected at an average weight of 3 Tons 5 cwts. Test 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-1954, 32,380.

HOUSE REFUSE ONLY.

Estimated quantity removed... ..	18,476 tons.
Approximate average weight per house ...	1.82 tons.
Average quantity per house per annum. ...	5.6 cu. yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days)	31.6 cwts.
Total cost of collection (Refuse, Salvage and Kitchen Waste)	£ 16,819
Cost of Disposal	3,799
Total Scavenging Costs	20,618
Less Income from Salvage, Tips, Bins, etc.	3,189
Nett Scavenging Cost	17,429

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	10	6	2	1	12	7
Gross cost per ton, transport only	7	6	—	3	7	9
Nett cost (all expenditure)	17	7	1	3	18	10
	£		£		£	
Nett cost per 1,000 population	502		36		538	
Nett cost per 1,000 premises	1603		116		1719	

				£	s.	d.
Cost per Establishment	...	...	...	1	14	5
Cost per head population	...	...	...		10	9
Cost on rates in the £	...	...	...		2	0.2
Average cost for emptying of one bin	...	...	...			7.7

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Owing to the very heavy nature of the refuse collected due to the high ash content and also to the scattered nature of the district, three separate tips have to be used. These are as follows :—

1. *Burradon Quarry.* The refuse from Annitsford, Burradon and Dudley is tipped in this quarry and there is sufficient space for a further two or three years. The Council, however, have considered what steps are to be taken when the space in this quarry has been used up and negotiations have been opened to purchase low lying land west of Burradon.
2. *Wideopen Quarry.* This quarry, although there is sufficient space for approximately one year, when it will be filled to the level which will be suitable for the making of the quarry into a park or open space. Tipping takes place on alternate times on the Burradon and Wideopen quarries and a man is in attendance. The tipping is carried out on strictly controlled lines but the refuse has such a high ash content that no mechanical aid is necessary to level and control.
3. *Old Moor Colliery, Whitley Road.* This tip is being used by Gosforth Urban District Council and ourselves taking the whole of the refuse from Gosforth Urban District and from the part of Longbenton Area south of Killingworth Station. The present site is sufficient for $1/1\frac{1}{2}$ years and following this another area of $15/20$ acres can be made available although the haul would be increased slightly.

The tips are treated regularly for rat infestation and any outbreaks of fire are dealt with immediately.

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

TRADE REFUSE.

A charge of 3d. per bin is made for the removal of trade refuse. It was noted during the year that a considerable amount of time was having to be spent by the collectors to obtain tickets from the shopkeepers for the number of bins removed and a scheme was prepared, to come into operation from the 1st April, whereby the shops would be put on an annual charge to be paid in advance. Most of the shopkeepers agreed to the new system of payment.

SALVAGE.

During the year our collection of waste paper was increased by nearly 20 tons, the amount of kitchen waste, however, was reduced to 85 tons. It is rather significant that this fall in collection should coincide with the removal of the restrictions on private collectors and the food position is now such that there is not the urge to salvage waste food.

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

				Tons. cwts.		Value.		
						£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	247	11	1799	15	7
Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	85	7	405	3	2
Rags	...	...	...	1	4	31	16	9
Scrap Metal	...	...	...	2	5	12	7	5
Total				...	...	2249	2	11

KITCHEN WASTE.

The following shows the costs of the working of the scheme and the revenue received from the kitchen waste. It will be noted that there is a £44 0s. 0d. loss on the scheme but the 85 tons of material would have had to be collected and disposed of as normal refuse had it not been collected in with the scheme.

Loan Charges	...	...	...	...	...	140	8	4
Tax and Insurance on vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	5	7	4
Wages and On cost	...	...	...	...	...	240	19	5
Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	39	0	8
Haulage	...	...	...	...	...	16	10	4
Sundries	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	9
						<hr/>		
						£449	8	10
						<hr/>		
						£	s.	d.
Revenue from Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	...	...	£405	3	2

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.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :

Type of Property					No. of Properties Inspected	No. of Inspections Made	No. treated by L.A.
Local Authority					11	73	11
Business					93	190	28
HOUSES	L.A.				42	56	23
	Private				131	227	56
Agri-cultural	Allotments				243	346	30
	Others				17	37	5
Totals					537	929	153

Bodies recovered : 233 Rats and 8 Mice.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Particulars of samples of Food and Drugs taken in the Longbenton Urban District for analysis during the year 1954, appended below, were kindly provided by Mr. C. J. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector. All the samples taken, with the exception of two, were declared by the Public Analyst to be genuine.

Food and Drugs Samples.

Sample	No. Taken	Genuine	Adulterated
Alspice	1	1	—
Bacon	1	1	—
Balsamic Emulsion	1	1	—
Beef Sausages	5	4	1
Sausage Meat	1	1	—
Blackcurrant Juice Cordial	1	1	—
Blackcurrant Ovals	1	1	—
Bronchial Mixture	1	1	—
Butter	5	5	—
Butter Mints	1	1	—

Sample	No. Taken	Genuine	Adulterated
Butter Toffee ...	1	1	—
Buttered Walnuts ...	1	1	—
Cake Mix ...	1	1	—
Cheese Spread ...	1	1	—
Chicken Soup ...	2	2	—
Chopped Ham... ..	1	1	—
Chopped Pork ...	1	1	—
Corned Beef ...	2	2	—
Dates ...	1	1	—
Demerara Sugar ...	1	1	—
Dripping ...	1	1	—
Eggs ...	1	1	—
Essence of Rennett ...	2	2	—
Fish Cakes ...	2	2	—
Flour ...	1	1	—
Ginger Beer ...	1	1	—
Ginger Cordial ...	1	1	—
Glucose with Vitamin D ...	1	1	—
Ground Almonds ...	1	1	—
Ice Cream ...	6	6	—
Icing Sugar ...	1	1	—
Iron Jelloids ...	1	1	—
Lard ...	1	1	—
Lemon Cheese ...	1	1	—
Lime Jelly Marmalade ...	1	1	—
Luncheon Meat ...	1	1	—
Malt Vinegar ...	2	2	—
Milk Chocolate ...	1	1	—
Milk Gums ...	1	1	—
Milk ...	31	31	—
Minced Chicken ...	1	1	—
Mincemeat ...	3	3	—
Nescafe ...	1	1	—
Olive Oil ...	1	1	—
Orange Squash ...	1	1	—
Pie Filling ...	1	1	—
Pineapple Juice ...	1	1	—
Pork and Veal ...	1	1	—
Pork Brawn ...	1	1	—
Pork Sausage ...	1	1	—
Pork Sausages... ..	3	2	1
Quinine and Iron Tonic ...	1	1	—
Rum and Butter Spread ...	1	1	—
Salmon and Shrimp Paste ...	1	1	—
Sausage and Beans ...	1	1	—
Sausage and Beans in Tomato Sauce	1	1	—

	Sample	No. Taken	Genuine	Adulterated
Swiss Roll	1	1	—
Tea	2	2	—
Tomato Juice Cocktail	1	1	—
Tomato Soup	1	1	—
White Pepper	1	1	—
Worcesterchire Sauce	1	1	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		115	113	2
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The Atmospheric Pollution Records for the year March 1954 to February 1955 (inclusive), taken by the Scientific Department, National Coal Board, at the Grange, Benton, have been supplied by Dr. Jones, the Divisional Chief Scientist, and are as follows :—

Rainfall	... ..	30 inches.
Insoluble Deposit	... ..	97.2 tons per sq. mile.
Soluble Deposit	... ..	49.2 tons per sq. mile.
		<hr/>
Total Solid Deposit	... ..	146.4 tons per sq. mile.
		<hr/>

In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to Mr. R. P. Bruce, Additional Sanitary Inspector, and the Clerical Staff of the Department for their loyalty and co-operation throughout the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. N. LOCKEY,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

