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Urban District Council

*County of Northumberland*

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ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR

1956

OF

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM

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

*Medical Officer of Health*

AND

WILLIAM N. LOCKEY

C.S.I.B., Certified Meat Inspector

*Senior Public Health 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 Public Health Inspector	WILLIAM N. LOCKEY	M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Cert., Sanitary Science Cert., R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector	ROBERT P. BRUCE	M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Cert. R.S.H.

# LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM

for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

*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 1956.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

#### POPULATION.

Mid-year 1956 figures from the Registrar General's Report shows an increase in population of 4,260 as compared with mid-year 1955. This increase can be explained in the main by the re-housing of Newcastle tenants in the New Longbenton Estate, 469 new houses having been occupied during the year.

Births show an increase of 81. Deaths are increased by 1 only. Infantile Mortality Rate shows a decrease from 35.18 per 1,000 live births to 20.40.

The principal causes of death were :—

Diseases of the Heart	...	...	...	103
Cancer of all types	...	...	...	62
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	51

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Details are given on pages 11 and 13.

#### MILK.

The milk supplies were maintained satisfactorily in quantity and quality. All milk retailed in the Urban District is pasteurised, sterilised or produced from Tuberculin tested herds.

#### HOUSING.

901 houses were built during 1956, 268 private enterprise and 633 by local authorities. The picture of overcrowding has shown from year to year an appreciable improvement. Approximately 415 families still need houses of their own at 1/3/57.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., through the company's mains. The supply has been satisfactory. 20 samples were taken. No case of illness resulted from consumption of water.

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

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their, kind encouragement throughout the year, and Mr. Lockey, Senior Public Health 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 1956 ... ..	41,550
Number of inhabited houses (31/12/56) according to Rate Book ... ..	11,804
Rateable Value (31/3/57) ... ..	£346,068
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1956/57) ...	£1,331-9-2

## 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	...	...	381	344	725
Illegitimate	...	...	5	5	10
			<hr/> 386	<hr/> 349	<hr/> 735
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	9	8	17
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			<hr/> 9	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 17

## Comparability Factors:—

Births	...	...	...	0.88
Deaths	...	...	...	1.53
Live Births per 1,000 Population	...	17.66	corrected	15.54
Still births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	22.60	„		19.88

## DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the

estimated population	...	...	7.48	„	11.66
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES			Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births)	
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—		—
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	1		1.33
			<hr/> 1		<hr/> 1.33

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR  
OF AGE

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	8	7	15
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS  
OF AGE

Legitimate	...	...	...	6	6	12
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>15</u>

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

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	20.40
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				20.68
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births				—

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

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	16.32
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				15.55
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births				—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	62
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	nil

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LONGBENTON AREA, 1956.

Causes of Death						Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	179	132
1—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...					2	—
2—Other forms of Tuberculosis	...					—	—
3—Syphilitic diseases	...					1	—
4—Diphtheria...	...					—	—
5—Whooping Cough	...					—	—
6—Meningococcal infections...	...					1	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis	...					—	—
8—Measles	...					—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases	...					—	—
10—Cancer of stomach	...					6	3
11—Cancer of lung and bronchus	...					11	2
12—Cancer of breast	...					—	7
13—Cancer of uterus	...					—	2
14—Cancer of all other sites	...					25	6
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...					—	1
16—Diabetes	...					2	3
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system	...					26	25
18—Coronary disease, angina	...					32	21
19—Hypertension with heart disease	...					2	1
20—Other heart disease	...					22	25
21—Other circulatory disease	...					6	7
22—Influenza	...					—	1
23—Pneumonia	...					6	3
24—Bronchitis	...					10	6
25—Other diseases of respiratory system	...					1	1
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...					2	—
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...					—	1
28—Nephritis and nephrosis	...					3	—
29—Hyperplasia of prostate	...					1	—
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...					—	1
31—Congenital malformations	...					1	2
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...					12	13
33—Motor vehicle accidents	...					4	—
34—All other accidents	...					3	—
35—Suicide	...					—	1
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 or environment 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 General Hospital, 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 was set aside for the reception of general infectious diseases (30 beds), but this accommodation for infectious disease cases was withdrawn in November 1955. Infectious disease cases are now accommodated at Walkergate, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Moor Park Hospital, North Shields. 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 and a third pavilion is open for convalescent cases. 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.

Application was made under Section 1 of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, for an Order of a Justice of the Peace for the removal of a woman in need of care and attention. Application was made for a further extension at the West Castle Ward Petty Sessions in accordance with Section 47 (4) of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

## 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 Public Health Inspector's Report.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

(iv) *Shops and Offices*—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

(v) *Camping Sites*.—See Senior Public Health's Inspector's Report.

(vi) *Smoke Abatement*—No official action has been necessary. See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

(vii) *Swimming Baths and Pools*—There are no swimming baths in the area.

(viii) *Eradication of the Bed Bug*—See Senior Public Health 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 Public Health Inspector's Report.

## SECTION E.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) *Milk Supply*—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.
- (b) *Meat and other Foods*—See Senior Public Health 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 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, 1956.

DISEASES	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED											Hospital	Deaths
	Age Group												
	At all Ages (1955)	U'der 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and over	Age not k'wn		
Scarlet Fever	35 (22)	—	1	3	5	4	20	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	70 (108)	11	9	9	12	12	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	170 (761)	7	18	17	25	27	73	1	2	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	12 (7)	1	1	—	2	—	—	5	1	2	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1 (6)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	— (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2P (1P)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1 (—)	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	3 (35)	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	295 (942)	19	31	29	44	44	112	9	4	3	—	—	—

The following table shows the number of bacteriological specimens from the Longbenton Area examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, during 1956.

Examination Requested.	Positive	Negative.	Total.
Vincent's Angina ... ..	—	1	1
Diphtheria ... ..	—	2	2
Haemolytic Strep. ... ..	1	1	2
Tuberculosis Sputa ... ..	—	2	2
Enteric and Dysentery Groups ...	24	29	53
Clinical Specimens ... ..	—	—	—
Staphylococcus Aureus ... ..	1	—	1
	26	35	61

**ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.**—Two cases of Paralytic Poliomyelitis were notified, one a child of 5 years and the other an adult female.

**SCARLET FEVER.**—Notifications show an increase of 13 cases, all of a very mild form.

**PNEUMONIA.**—Notifications show an increase 12 cases as against 7.

**MEASLES.**—There is a decrease in the number of cases notified from 761 in 1955 to 170 in 1956.

**WHOOPING COUGH.**—There was a fall in the number of cases notified, 70 as against 108 in 1955.

**FOOD POISONING.**—No cases of food poisoning were notified.

**DYSENTERY.**—Only three cases of dysentery were notified during the year.

**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.**—No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified 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, 1956.—The following Tables are self explanatory :—

	NEW CASES NOTIFIED FORM A				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	5	7	2	1	—	—	—	—
25 to 44 years ...	8	4	1	—	1	—	—	—
45 to 65 years ...	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age not known ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	19	14	4	3	2	—	—	—

#### CASES TRANSFERRED INTO AREA.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years ...	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	2	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	6	6	—	1
25 to 44 years ...	9	14	—	1
45 to 65 years ...	2	1	—	—
65 years and over ...	—	—	—	—
Age not known ...	—	—	—	1
	19	21	—	3

PARTICULARS OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER  
as at 31st December, 1956.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non- Pulmonary
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
Cases on Register at 1/1/56. ...	282	263	545	49	49	98	643
New Cases ...	19	14	33	4	3	7	40
Cases transferred into area . ...	19	21	40	—	3	3	43
Cases Reinstated	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Cases Removed	22	13	35	6	5	11	46
Cases on Register at 31/12/56 ...	298	286	584	47	50	97	681

B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.—207 children were protected against Tuberculosis by vaccination.

# **LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

### **SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

*To the Chairman and Members of the*

LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the Sanitary and Refuse Collection Departments for the year 1956.

The two Compulsory Purchase Orders and the three Clearance Orders, submitted to the Minister in 1955 were confirmed in 1956 and the total families were re-housed in 1956. Two streets, having 9 and 10 houses respectively, were dealt with as Individual Unfit Houses but re-housing was carried out from one house only before the end of the year.

Details, showing the number of families re-housed during 1956 and the numbers still remaining on the Housing Application Lists, have been kindly supplied by the Housing Manager and included herein.

#### HOUSING.

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
	34	1	39	45	119

##### OTHERS.

Exchanges to abate overcrowding	...	115
Slum Clearance	... ..	88
Eviction Orders and Special Allocation		11
		<hr/> 333 <hr/>

The following table shows the fluctuation of the number of applicants for Council Houses between 1/4/49 and 1/4/57 :—

CATEGORY 'A'

Applicants with homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions ... ..

282 261 255 212 236 205 116 98 86 55

CATEGORY 'B.'

Applicants without homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions ... ..

225 240 213 103 150 138 24 15 6 4

CATEGORY 'C.'

Applicants without homes of their own but not overcrowded ... ..

449 481 503 376 446 532 465 550 484 411

CATEGORY 'D.'

Normal applicants desiring improved housing accommodation but not overcrowded ... ..

477 575 615 582 666 740 717 761 722 765

---

1433 1557 1586 1273 1498 1615 1322 1424 1298 1233

---

#### REPAIR OF PRIVATELY OWNED HOUSES.

Private landlords are not taking advantage of the increase in rents permitted under the Housing Rents and Repairs Act, 1954. Only one application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received during the year. It was possible to have all repairs carried out without having to recourse to serving notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act. All notices being served under the Public Health Act.

#### HOUSING ACT, 1949. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Applications were received for Improvement Grants to 14 houses, one was not approved.

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—							
Defective ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shops Act ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meat Inspection Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tents, Vans, and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Factories Act ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clean Air Act and Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	4806	1523	475	706	17	99	—

## INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Oc'piers P'cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	5	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	41	58	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	7	7	—	—
Total	53	74	—	—

## DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp'ctor	By H.M. Insp'ctor	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	5	—	—	—

TABLE II.  
HOUSING.

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1956.

Houses Completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
By Local Authority	164	—	164
By any other Housing Authority	469	—	469
By private persons	—	268	268
Total			901

Total number of Inhabited Houses in District, 11,804.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

A. FORMAL ACTION.

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of houses demolished during 1956 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action ... .. | 92 |
| (Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) ...                 | —  |
| (2) Number of houses <i>closed</i> but not demolished as a result of formal action ... ..                  | 9  |

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 1956 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) As a result of Informal Action ... ..         | 180 |
| (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ... | 21  |
| (c) By Local Authority in default of owners ...   | 15  |

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—HOUSING ACT, 1949.

- |  |  |    |
|--|--|----|
| (a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year ... ..                   |  | 14 |
| (b) Applications rejected by Local Authority ...                                   |  | 1  |
| (c) Applications approved ... ..   |  | 13 |
| (d) Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme ... .. |  | 85 |

Number of  
separate  
houses

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—			
Privies and Privy Ashpits abolished	2	—	2
"    "    "    "    repaired	—	—	—
Pail-Closets abolished	—	—	—
Water-Closets provided	2	—	2
Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A. 1936, S. 47	2	—	2
Sanitary Bins provided	2	—	2
Sanitary Bins renewed	102	6	108
DRAINAGE—			
New Drains constructed	8	—	8
Drains repaired or reconstructed	15	1	16
Additional Gullies provided	6	—	6
Old Gullies replaced	—	—	—
Scullery Sinks provided	6	—	6
Scullery Waste Pipes repaired	12	—	12
Scullery Waste Pipes trapped	—	—	—
Yards repaired or reconstructed	3	—	3

In 30 instances, informal notices were served with regard to the repair of W.Cs, and in 4, Statutory Notices had to be served, one of which had to be repaired in default by the Council.

## ASHBINS.

Informal action was taken for the replacement of 102 defective bins. It was, however, necessary in six instances to serve Statutory Notices under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, to secure the provision of new bins. In all instances the Council decided that the notices were to be served on the owners of the properties.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No cases of pollution of streams or watercourses were found during the year.

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

It was not necessary for the Department to take action in this respect during the year.

## ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

The presence of vermin in both private and Council houses continues to decrease and during the year it was only necessary in the case of 6 Council and 2 private houses to treat for the presence of bed bugs.

By far the most common infestation was that of the cockroach, 11 private houses and 34 Council houses were treated.

In the case of fleas, it was necessary to treat one private and one Council house.

Even though the number of houses found to be infested with vermin is very small, the Council continues with its policy of precaution in Council houses by spraying all furniture with a solution of D.D.T. in Kerosene prior to it being moved into a Council house or an exchange from one Council house to another. In this respect a total of 238 houses were inspected—few were found to be infested with vermin.

## TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

There is only one caravan licensed for occupation in the district, namely, at Green Lane, Killingworth.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

- (i) Number of Food Premises in the area, 232.
- (ii) Registered premises, 90.
- (iii) Number of inspections of registered premises, 265.
- (iv) This being a very scattered district it was not deemed advisable to have lectures on Food Hygiene but, during the initial inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations, a precis of the regulations was left with each proprietor and the subject discussed with the staffs.

- (v) All condemned meat is treated with dye and collected for manufacture into manures. Tinned goods are buried in the refuse tip.
- (vi) It has not been necessary to make any examination of any large stock of materials found unsound.
- (vii) There are no premises registered in this district for the production of ice cream.
- (viii) On the making of the new Regulations an intensive survey was made of all shops in the area, some 271, of which 232 were defined as Food Premises. In all some 683 visits were made to inspect and discuss the Regulations with the proprietors and/or staff. Although most of the food premises had hot and cold water and sinks installed some years ago, hand basins with hot and cold water were now required in addition to locker accommodation, first aid boxes, hand washing notices, means of protecting open food on display and structural improvements. The traders generally accepted the requirements of the Regulations. Before the end of the year a large number of the 688 items drawn to the attention of the proprietors had been dealt with.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

*Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924—1952.*

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

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNATIONS.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed ... ..	853	168	70	5459	1219	—
Number Inspected ... ..	853	168	70	5459	1219	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	5	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	210	37	—	24	188	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis ... ..	24.5%	22.02%	—	0.53%	15.5%	—
Total weight of meat and offal condemned (lbs.) ...	2085	495	—	403	798	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organs were condemned	18	16	—	—	62	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	2.11%	9.52%	—	—	5.09%	—
Total weight of meat and offal condemned (lbs.) ...	404	352	—	—	877	—
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE IV.  
FOOD INSPECTION.

Unsound Food				Sur-rendered	Seized	Legal Pro-ceedings
1.	Beef (Home-Killed)	...stones		42½	—	—
2.	Beef (Imported)	... "		41½	—	—
3.	Mutton (Home-Killed)	... "		—	—	—
4.	Mutton (Imported)	... "		—	—	—
5.	Pork (Home-Killed)	... "		—	—	—
6.	Pork (Imported)...	... "		—	—	—
7.	Game	... lbs.		—	—	—
8.	Poultry	... "		—	—	—
9.	Fish	... "		—	—	—
10.	Fruit	... "		—	—	—
11.	Canned Goods	... Tins		269	—	—
12.	Bacon	... lbs.		50	—	—
13.	Cheese	... "		99	—	—
14.	Butter and Margarine	... "		9	—	—
15.	Lard	... "		—	—	—
16.	Eggs (frozen and powdered)	... "		—	—	—
17.	Flour	... "		—	—	—
18.	Sugar	... "		—	—	—
19.	Other Foods	... "		99	—	—

#### 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 ... 99

#### 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 ... 1

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 ... 18

Number of Dealer's Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district 4

Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" and "T.T. Pasteurised" in relation to milk retailed from premises outside the district.	12
Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district	54
Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises outside the district ... ..	6

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

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

## T.T. RAW MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test ...	4	4	8	50
B. Tuberculosis ... ..	7	—	7	100

## PASTEURISED AND T.T. (PASTEURISED) MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test ...	30	3	33	90.91
Phosphatase Test ... ..	33	—	33	100

## STERILISED AND T.T. (STERILISED) MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Turbidity Test ... ..	6	—	6	100

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM.

During the summer months regular samples of ice cream are taken, trying as far as possible to have samples examined from each different manufacturer retailing within the district,

though some difficulty is experienced in taking regular samples from the occasional vendor travelling through the district with a van.

There are no producers of ice cream in the district, although 60 premises are licensed to sell ice cream.

The table shows the number of samples (14) taken and the Bacteriological grading of such samples.

Producers.	No. of Samples.	Results and Grades.
A	4	1, 1, 1, 1.
B	1	1.
C	3	2, 1, 1.
D	3	1, 1, 1.
E	3	1, 2, 1.

#### COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The Council's fleet of seven refuse vehicles was found to give satisfactory service throughout the year although the position of man power was rather acute in that out of a total staff of 36 no less than 23 men either left the service or were found unsuitable for the work. We were able to maintain regular collection services of at least once per week in the residential district, in one part of the mining district twice per week and in other parts of the district three times per fortnight. In all, some 6,825 loads were collected at an average weight, from tested loads, of 3 tons 4 cwts.

#### STATISTICS.

I beg to append below statistics with reference to the refuse collected. The figures are based upon the estimated population for mid-year 1956, 41,550.

#### HOUSE REFUSE ONLY.

Estimated quantity removed...	...	...	21,852 tons.
Approximate average weight per house	...	...	1.81 tons.
Average quantity per house per annum.	...	...	5.67 cu. yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days)	...	...	29.0 cwts.
Total cost of collection (Refuse, Salvage and Kitchen Waste)	...	...	£ 21,469
Cost of Disposal	...	...	5,043
Total Scavenging Costs	...	...	26,512
Less Income from Salvage, Tips, Bins, etc.			4,389
Nett Scavenging Cost	...	...	22,123

## UNIT COSTS.

(Income from Salvage, excluding Kitchen Waste, is credited to Disposal).

	Collection		Disposal		Total	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Gross cost per ton, labour only ... ..	11	11	2	8	14	7
Gross cost per ton, transport only ... ..	7	4	—	2	7	6
Nett cost (all expenditure)	18	11	1	4	20	3
<hr/>						
Nett cost per 1,000 population	£ 497		£ 35		£ 532	
Nett cost per 1,000 premises	1716		122		1838	
<hr/>						
				£	s.	d.
Cost per Establishment ... ..	...	...	...	1	16	9
Cost per head population ... ..	...	...	...		10	7.7
Cost on rates in the £ ... ..	...	...	...		1	4.6
Average cost for emptying of one bin ... ..			...			6.9

## DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

During the year under review we were still using three tips, namely, Old Moor Colliery, Whitley Road, Wideopen Quarry and Burradon Quarry. As the first and the last are nearly completed, further negotiations have taken place with a view to extending the site at Old Moor Colliery, Whitley Road, but up to date without result. It is anticipated that when the two mentioned above have been completed use will be made of one tip only at Wideopen and, if arrangements are not made for further land at the Old Moor Colliery, tipping will have to take place in the Benton Quarry which was bought some years ago by the Council.

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

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

## TRADE REFUSE.

Contracts have been made with shopkeepers, etc., for an annual charge, payable in advance, at approximately 3d. per bin, for the removal of trade refuse.

## SALVAGE.

During the year there was a restriction in deliveries of waste paper and we were reduced in total by 10 tons. The Kitchen Waste was increased by some 29 tons. Appended below are the weights and values of the materials sold :—

				Tons. cwts.		Value.		
						£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	358	0	2712	0	0
Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	92	0	415	0	0
Rags ...	...	...	...	2	0	58	0	0
Scrap Metal	...	...	...	11	0	16	0	0
Total				463	0	3201	0	0

#### 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 £186 15s. 6d. loss on the scheme but the 92 tons of material would have had to be collected and disposed of as normal refuse had it not been collected in with the scheme.

						£	s.	d.
Loan Charges	...	...	...	...	...	141	15	0
Tax and Insurance on vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	5	7	4
Wages and On cost	...	...	...	...	...	439	17	8
Repairs and Sundries	...	...	...	...	...	49	15	8
						£636	15	8
						£	s.	d.
Revenue from Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	...	...	£450	0	2

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Regular inspections and treatments are made of refuse tips and sewerage disposal works. Allotments and small-holdings in the district are kept under strict observation and, generally speaking, excellent co-operation is obtained from the respective owners wherever infestations of rats are found.

The sewers in the area are treated regularly in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations and in all sections, with the exception of Seaton Burn, the sewers are, generally speaking, free from rats.

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

Type of Property			No. of Properties in District	No. of Properties Surveyed (Inc. Re-surveys)	No. of Inspections Made	No. treated by L.A.
Local Authority ...			11	43	165	30
Business ...			792	61	114	18
HOUSES	L.A. ...	}	11804	173	258	68
	Private ...			174	321	88
Agri-cultural	Allotments ...	350 approx		256	338	30
	Others ...	26		6	11	1
Totals ...			12983	713	1207	235

Bodies recovered : 174 Rats and 28 Mice.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS.

Particulars of samples of food and drugs taken in the Urban District have been kindly provided by Mr. C. J. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector. A total of 168 miscellaneous samples were taken, only one of beef sausage was adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst. As the reported deficiency was small no proceedings were deemed necessary.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Atmospheric pollution records for the year ended 31st December, 1956, taken by the Scientific Department, National Coal Board, at their Headquarters, The Grange, Benton, in the Urban District, have been supplied by Mr. C. Kibbler, Divisional Chief Scientist. The following table shows the total deposits since 1951 :—

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	236	208	197	146	191	185
Rainfall ...	...	...	...	...	29 inches.	
Insoluble Deposit	...	...	...	...	125 tons per sq. mile.	
Soluble Deposit	...	...	...	...	60 tons per sq. mile.	
Total Solid Deposit	...	...	...	...	185 tons per sq. mile.	

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

Yours faithfully,

W. N. LOCKEY,  
*Senior Public Health Inspector.*







