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Longbenton
Urban District Council

County of Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR

1959

OF

A. W. HAY

M.B., B.S., 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... ..	ARTHUR W. HAY ...	M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
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., Smoke Inspector's Cert. R.S.H.

LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ARTHUR W. HAY

for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

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 1959.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population of the area again shows an increase in numbers and has risen during the year by 1,980 to a total population of 47,780. The increase is mainly housed in the residential areas of Longbenton, Forest Hall and Wideopen, where the new housing estates continue to accommodate the over-spill population from Newcastle upon Tyne. The rapidity of the increase in population from this cause is shown by comparison with the year 1956, when the population was 41,550 and with 1953, when it was only 30,240. In only 7 years, therefore, the population has jumped by 17,540 persons, an increase of more than 50 per cent. In addition to the influx of population from Newcastle upon Tyne, there is also an actual increase in population caused by the fact that each year the number of births exceeds the number of deaths in the district by 500.

With the exception of Measles, infectious disease continues to decline, and during the year once again there were no cases notified of Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis, Typhoid Fever or Smallpox. I am pleased to report that the number of cases of Dysentery declined from 39 last year to 15 for the current year. This illness has caused a good deal of anxiety by being especially prevalent in the last few years, indeed only three years ago there were 113 cases reported during the year. However, through the continued activity of the Public Health Inspectors and the co-operation of the Family Doctors, the

disease is being eradicated. A great deal of Public Health Inspectors' time is taken up visiting households and carrying out investigations among the members of families in which this disease occurs, as well as in collecting bacteriological specimens for examination at the Public Health Laboratory. The campaign to encourage Poliomyelitis vaccination among the teenage and young adult groups of the population was increased during the year, and the response was satisfactory. By December 31st, a total of 11,482 people had received two injections of Poliomyelitis vaccine, and 8,963 persons had been given a follow-up "booster" dose. An epidemic of Measles caused much illness during the early Summer, a total of 1,221 cases being notified. The epidemic affected children up to 9 years of age, 522 of the cases occurring in school children in the 5 to 9 year old group.

Turning to the causes of death, the total number of deaths was lower (353) than that for last year (404) although the population has increased. Coronary Thrombosis deaths, unfortunately, have not followed this trend, and 67 deaths were recorded from this cause, compared with 62 deaths for the previous year. It was once again the main single cause of death in the district. The second major cause of death was once again Cancer, although the total number of deaths has fallen from 71 to 55, and I am pleased to report that Cancer of the Lung was only responsible for 13 deaths, compared with 23 in the previous year.

I would like to express my thanks to the Staff of the Public Health Department and especially to Mr. Lockey, the Chief Public Health Inspector, for continued assistance throughout the year. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and interest in all matters affecting the health of the public.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. HAY,

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 1959	47,780
Number of inhabited houses (31/12/59) according to Rate Book	13,751
Rateable Value (1/4/60)	£407,494
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1959/60) ...	£1,602

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	...	...	442	407	849
Illegitimate	...	...	10	7	17
			<hr/> 452	<hr/> 414	<hr/> 866
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	4	9	13
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			<hr/> 4	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 13

Comparability Factors:—

Births	0.86
Deaths	1.53
Live Births per 1,000 Population ...	18.12 corrected 15.58
Still births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	14.78 „ 12.31

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	7.38	„	11.29
--	------	---	-------

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births)
------------------------------	--------	--

Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	3	3.4
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 3.4

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR
OF AGE

					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	17	7	24
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					<u>17</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>24</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS
OF AGE

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	15	5	20
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					<u>15</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>20</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	14	1	15
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					<u>14</u>	<u>1</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	...	...	...	27.71
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				28.26
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	...	...	...	23.09
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				23.55
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births				—

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

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	17.32
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				17.66
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births				—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	55
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LONGBENTON AREA, 1959.

Causes of Death						Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	208	145
1—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...					—	—
2—Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...				—	—
3—Syphilitic diseases		...	...	...		—	—
4—Diphtheria...	...	...	...	...		—	—
5—Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...		—	—
6—Meningococcal infections...	...	...	...			1	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...			—	—
8—Measles	...	...	...	...		—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases	...					—	—
10—Cancer of stomach	...	...	...			2	3
11—Cancer of lung and bronchus	...	...	...			11	2
12—Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...		—	5
13—Cancer of uterus	...	...	...	...		—	1
14—Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...		23	8
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...		1	1
16—Diabetes	...	...	...	...		1	1
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system	...					26	34
18—Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...			46	21
19—Hypertension with heart disease	...					2	3
20—Other heart disease	...	...	...			26	22
21—Other circulatory disease	...	...	...			3	5
22—Influenza	...	...	...	...		—	2
23—Pneumonia	...	...	...	...		10	7
24—Bronchitis	...	...	...	...		13	2
25—Other diseases of respiratory system	...					1	2
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...					1	1
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...					—	—
28—Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...			—	2
29—Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...			1	—
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...					—	3
31—Congenital malformations	...	...	...			2	2
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...					25	15
33—Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...			4	1
34—All other accidents	...	...	...			7	2
35—Suicide	...	...	...	...		2	—

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 generally improving.

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
78.3	85.22	87.3	70.27	51.9	85.7	60.6	51.8	61.1
1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
35.95	76.54	35.95	36.68	43.68	38.87	31.47	25.80	38.31
1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959		
23.76	24.41	35.18	20.40	16.52	18.18	27.71		

SECTION B.

1. (i) Public Health Officials : see page 2.
- (ii) (a) Laboratory facilities are now available at the General Hospital, Newcastle upon 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 centered 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 district. This hospital is administered by the South East Hospital Management Committee (Northumberland) on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. The primary function of this hospital is to provide accommodation for the care of aged sick men and women and one pavilion is set aside for convalescent cases. All infectious disease cases for the area are accommodated at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne and Moor Park Hospital, North Shields.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47.

It was not necessary to take any action under the above section during the year.

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.
- (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 Inspector's Report.
- (vi) *Clean Air Act, 1956*—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.

All schools in the area are provided with a sufficient and suitable water supply from the mains supply together with a water carriage system of sanitary accommodation. Periodical inspections are made of all schools and particular attention paid to those schools provided with school meals facilities, including kitchens.

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, 1959.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED													Hospital	Deaths
Age Group														
At all Ages (1958)	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	46 (45)	2	5	1	3	32	3	—	—	—	—	—		
Whooping Cough	29 (33)	1	3	1	3	15	1	—	—	—	—	—		
Measles	1221 (36)	37	174	168	168	522	8	1	4	—	—	—		
Dysentery	15 (39)	1	1	3	1	2	2	—	4	—	—	—		
Pneumonia	12 (23)	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	7	—	—	—		
Typhoid Fever	— (5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Erysipelas	1 (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—		
Puerperal Pyrexia	2 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—		
Food Poisoning	1 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
TOTAL	1327 (183)	39	183	173	175	573	14	5	17	—	—	—		

The following table shows the number of bacteriological specimens from the Longbenton Area examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, during 1959.

Examination Requested.	Positive	Negative.	Total.
Vincent's Angina	—	2	2
Diphtheria	—	1	1
Haemolytic Strep.	—	1	1
Tuberculosis Sputa	2	—	2
Enteric and Dysentery Groups ...	46	235	281
Clinical Specimens	—	—	—
Staphylococcus Aureus	1	—	1
	49	239	288

POLIOMYELITIS.—No cases of Paralytic Poliomyelitis were notified.

SCARLET FEVER.—Notifications show an increase of 1 case: all were of a very mild form.

PNEUMONIA.—Notifications show a decrease, 12 cases as against 23.

MEASLES.—There is a very large increase in the number of cases notified: 1,221 in 1959 to 36 in 1958.

WHOOPING COUGH.—There was a decrease in the number of cases notified, 29 as against 33 in 1958.

FOOD POISONING.—One case of food poisoning was notified.

DYSENTERY.—There was a decrease in the number of cases notified during the year, 15 as against 39 in 1958.

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 Clinic 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, 1935, with regard to persons employed in the milk trade, nor in the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1959.—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 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 44 years ...	2	7	—	1	1	1	—	—
45 to 64 years ...	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age not known ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	11	12	1	1	2*	1*	—	—

*Cases removed from register but principal cause of death not given as Tuberculosis.

CASES TRANSFERRED INTO AREA.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years ...	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	5	6	—	—
25 to 44 years ...	8	5	—	—
45 to 64 years ...	4	1	1	—
65 years and over ...	—	—	—	—
Age not known	—	—	—	—
	17	12	1	—

PARTICULARS OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER
as at 31st December, 1959.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non- Pulmonary
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
Cases on Register at 1/1/59 ...	311	323	634	44	55	99	753
New Cases ...	11	12	23	1	1	2	25
Cases transferred into area	17	12	29	1	—	1	30
Cases Reinstated	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cases Removed	28	24	52	7	1	8	60
Cases on Register at 31/12/59 ...	312	323	635	39	55	94	729

LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1959

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the Public Health and Refuse Collection Departments for the year 1959.

HOUSING.

Details, showing the number of families re-housed during 1959 and the numbers still remaining on the Housing Applications List, have been kindly supplied by the Housing Manager.

The following Table shows the number of houses allocated to the various types of applicants:

POINTS SCHEME.

Categories :	A	B	C	D & O.P.	Total
	7	2	16	17	42

OTHERS.

Exchanges to abate overcrowding	...	62
Slum Clearance	... ..	2
Eviction Orders and Special Allocation	...	3
Transfer of Tenancy	... ..	34
		143

The following table shows the fluctuation of the number of applicants for Council Houses between 1/4/49 and 1/4/60 :-

CATEGORY 'A.'

Applicants with
homes of their own
and residing in over-
crowded conditions

282 261 255 212 236 205 116 98 86 55 32 39 59

CATEGORY 'B.'

Applicants without
homes of their own
and residing in over-
crowded conditions

225 240 213 103 150 138 24 15 6 4 7 8 5

CATEGORY 'C.'

Applicants without
homes of their own
but not overcrowded

449 481 503 376 446 532 465 550 484 411 183 397 353

CATEGORY 'D.'

Normal applicants
desiring improved
housing accommoda-
tion but not over-
crowded ...

477 575 615 582 666 740 717 761 722 765 431 557 604

1433 1557 1586 1273 1498 1615 1322 1424 1298 1233 653 1001 1021

No new houses were provided but 47 existing houses became available for re-allocation.

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

The 5-year programme 1956-1961 was completed before the end of 1958 in so far as the reporting and the Public Enquiries into the Clearance Areas were concerned. It has not been possible to deal with the Individual Unfit Houses listed in that period as the houses for the re-housing of the tenants in the Clearance Areas have not been provided in 1959 and, therefore, no useful purpose would be served in reporting thereon. It is anticipated that in early 1960 a new 5-year programme will be placed before the Committee so that the programme will not be held up for the provision of land.

REPAIR OF PRIVATELY OWNED HOUSES.

The policy of securing repairs to private houses by informal action has again been pursued. 72 Informal Notices were served, in 5 instances it was necessary to serve Statutory Notices. In all cases the work specified in the notices was completed and it was not necessary to take legal proceedings.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

Applications were received for Improvement Grants to 6 houses, one of which was rejected.

STANDARD GRANTS.

Four applications were received. All were approved.

RENT ACT, 1957.

It would appear that there is a considerable amount of agreement between the landlords and tenants relative to the carrying out of repairs as only one application was received for Certificates of Disrepair.

The table below shows the number of applicants for certificates of disrepair :—

Applications received for Certificates of Disrepair	1
Applications for Certificates of disrepair—refused	—
Undertakings by landlords—accepted ...	—
Certificates of disrepair—issued	1
Application for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	—
Certificates of Disrepair, cancelled ...	—
Certificates of Disrepair, not cancelled ...	—

TABLE 1.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	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 Notices	Legal Proceedings
HOUSING—							
Structural Defects ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Defective Food Store	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dampness ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WATER SUPPLY—							
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unsatisfactory ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
DRAINAGE							
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unsatisfactory ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—							
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Defective ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Defective Dustbins ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nuisances and Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tents, Vans, and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Infectious Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Keeping of Animals ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955—							
Public Houses and Food Premises ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shops Act ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meat Inspection Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Public Cleansing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Factories Act ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clean Air Act ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rent Act, 1957 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Agriculture, Safety Health and Welfare Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	5106	1008	364	713	19	135	—

TABLE II.
HOUSING.

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1959.

Houses Completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
By Local Authority	—	—	—
By any other Housing Authority	77	—	77
By private persons	—	533	533
Total	77	533	610

Total number of Inhabited Houses in District, 13,751.

Total number of Houses owned by Local Authority 3,145.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

A. FORMAL ACTION.

- (1) Number of houses demolished during 1959 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action —
 (Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) ... —
 (2) Number of houses *closed* but not demolished as a result of formal action 1

B. INFORMAL ACTION.

- (1) Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above —
 (2) Houses demolished —

RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Number of houses made fit during 1959 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

- (a) As a result of Informal Action 121
 (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ... 9
 (c) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 4

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

A. *Discretionary Grants.*

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	6
2. Applications rejected by Local Authority during year	1
3. Applications approved by Local Authority during year	5
4. Approximate average Grant approved per house	£129-0-0
5. Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme	102

B. *Standard Grants.*

1. Number of separate houses for which grants were made during year	4
2. Number of houses so provided with—	
(a) Bath or shower	2
(b) Washhand basin	3
(c) Hot water supply	3
(d) Water Closet	3
(e) Food Store... ..	2

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occ'piers P'cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	6	8	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	69	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	9	9	2	—
Total	76	86	8	—

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)	2	2	—	—	—
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	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	2	2	—	—	—
Total	8	8	—	—	—

TABLE OF OUTWORKERS.

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August List.	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing Apparel Making, etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—
All other outworkers	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

It was necessary to serve formal notice, under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (as amended by Sec. 30 of the Water Act, 1945), in one instance only to secure repairs to the water supply to a dwelling house within the district. By informal procedure a further six supplies to dwelling houses were restored.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

The policy of regular routine sampling of the domestic water supplies throughout the district continues, special attention being paid to areas where new buildings, reconstruction or repair to water mains, are in progress. By this method detection of local contamination was discovered in two instances. In one case the contamination was very slight and easily rectified, the probable cause being the renewal of a section of main. The other, however, presented a much greater problem as the contamination was heavier and more prolonged. No satisfactory explanation could be found in this case.

The number of specimens submitted for bacteriological examination, together with the results, are set out below :—

<i>No. of Specimens.</i>	<i>Coliform Bacilli per 100 ml.</i>	<i>Bact. Coli. per 100 ml.</i>
33	nil	nil
4	1	nil
2	nil	1
1	1	1
2	nil	3
3	nil	5
1	nil	25
1	nil	35
<hr/>		
Total 47		
<hr/>		

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are only three dry closets remaining in the area, one is at a farm where drainage is not available and the other two are at houses, both of which are scheduled for early Slum Clearance.

Informal Action secured in 29 instances the necessary repairs to defective W.Cs. It was, however, necessary to serve five statutory notices, under Section 45 of the Public Health Act, 1936, on the owners of the property to carry out works of repair. In all cases notices were complied with by the owners and it was not necessary for the Council to undertake the work in default.

ASHBINS.

Informal Action was taken for 124 defective ashbins and, in this respect, 113 Informal Notices were served. In 6 instances, however, it was necessary to serve Statutory Notices under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to secure the provision of new bins. The Council decided that the notices should be served upon the owners of the property and not on the occupiers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

During the year complaints were received from the inhabitants of a new residential area that stagnant water in a ditch was offensive. Despite many demands and site meetings it has not been possible to have the matter rectified mainly due to a legal dispute between the owners of the land in which the ditch is situated who claim that the developer of the land upon which the houses have been built has obstructed the natural outlet of this stream. The matter is now being dealt with by the legal representative for each of the parties concerned.

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.

Complaints received with regard to the presence of vermin have now reached low level. In only five instances has there been any evidence found of the bed bug, one of fleas and three of flies. There are a very large number of complaints received of cockroaches, in all 38 Council and 25 private houses were treated. In the treatment we always endeavour, in the case of semi-detached or blocks of four, to treat the whole block and the Council agreed that in the case of Council houses the costs should be charged against the Housing Revenue Account. In the case of private houses, 5/- per house is charged. We are finding that it is advisable to give a second treatment, three or four months after the initial treatment, so as to effectively deal with any cockroaches which have hatched out after the first treatment.

The furniture of all tenants moving into Council houses is inspected for bed bugs and, if necessary, is sprayed with a solution of D.D.T. in Kerosene. In all, 67 visits were made.

The following table shows the number of treatments given for both Council and private houses :—

	Council.	Private.
Bugs	3	2
Cockroaches	38	25
Fleas	1	—
Wasps	4	2
Furniture	47	20
Red mite	—	4
Woodworm	1	—
Flies	—	3
Ants	1	—
Ground beetle	—	1

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

There are three caravans licensed for occupation in the district, one at Seaton Burn and two at Killingworth Village. These are regularly inspected.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

- (i) Number of Food Premises in the area ... 246
- (ii) Registered Premises 111
- (iii) Number of inspections of registered premises... 201

MOBILE SHOPS.

There is a considerable number of mobile shops operating throughout the district, not only on the new estates where new shops have not yet been provided, but in the whole of the district. There appears to be a trend to purchase from the mobile shop rather than to make shopping visits. Vans are inspected regularly to see that the Food Hygiene Regulations are being complied 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	Total
Number Killed	1495	402	40	7592	2305	11834
Number Inspected	1495	402	40	7592	2305	11834
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCII						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	1	22	—	26
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	521	87	2	134	301	1045
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	34.92%	22.14%	7.5%	2.05%	13.06%	9.05%
Total weight of meat and offal condemned (lbs.) ...	4951	2152	36	1344	1199	9682
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organs were condemned	36	26	—	—	77	139
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.48%	6.47%	—	—	3.35%	1.18%
Total weight of meat and offal condemned (lbs.)	1724	1090	—	—	1040	3854
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	4	—	—	—	16
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of Bovine Carcasses inspected affected with C. Bovis.	.80%	.995%	—	—	—	—
Total weight of meat and offal condemned. (lbs.)	225	120	—	—	—	375

TABLE IV.
FOOD INSPECTION.

Unsound Food				Sur-rendered	Seized	Legal Pro-ceedings
1.	Beef (Home-Killed)	...	stones	16 $\frac{2}{3}$	—	—
2.	Beef (Imported)	...	"	38	—	—
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	288	—	—
12.	Bacon	...	lbs.	—	—	—
13.	Cheese	...	"	—	—	—
14.	Butter and Margarine	...	"	27	—	—
15.	Lard	...	"	1	—	—
16.	Eggs (frozen and powdered)	...	"	—	—	—
17.	Flour	...	"	—	—	—
18.	Sugar	...	"	—	—	—
19.	Other Foods	...	"	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—

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 ... 116

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 5

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 ... 20

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

Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" and "T.T. Pasteurised" in relation to milk retailed from premises outside the district.	16
Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district	64
Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises outside the district	10

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

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

T.T. RAW MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test ...	12	8	20	60

PASTEURISED AND T.T. (PASTEURISED) MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test ...	37	—	37	100
Phosphatase Test	37	—	37	100

STERILISED AND T.T. (STERILISED) MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Turbidity Test	15	—	15	100

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM.

During the summer months regular samples of ice cream were 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.

The table shows the number of samples (26) taken and the Bacteriological grading of such samples.

<i>Producers.</i>	<i>No. of Samples.</i>	<i>Results and Grades.</i>
A,B,C,D,E,F,G	21	1
E,H	2	2
I,J	2	3
K	1	4

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Particulars of samples of food and drugs taken in the Urban District have been kindly provided by Mr. C. L. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector. A total of 185 miscellaneous samples were taken. The only samples found not to be up to standard were, one fruit drink, one medicinal drink and one of red wine. The first did not comply with the Fruit Standard (Soft Drinks) Order, 1953, the second did not conform to the declaration on the label and, in the third, the label did not specify the nature of the minerals nor the quantities present.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The aim of the Council to collect each bin once per week and others, from the mining areas, three times per fortnight or twice per week, has been maintained throughout the year but it is felt that the better service of twice per week, in lieu of three times per fortnight in the mining areas, would be much more satisfactory. The Council have decided that the workmen should receive the same holidays as the office staff, but in the refuse collection department it was agreed that instead of the extra days being taken, Boxing Day, the day following Easter Monday, Whit Monday, etc., time should be allowed during the summer months on Fridays when it was anticipated the refuse would be lighter and, thereby, not reduce the force at the most inopportune time. This meant that an additional five days holiday had to be given on Fridays, when Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday and Bank Holiday Monday are added gives a total of eleven 4-day weeks in the year. This extra holiday was given on the understanding that the work would not be allowed to fall behind, but it has been noted that more recently it has been occasionally neces-

sary to work overtime the week following the 4-day week in order to maintain the service necessary.

In all, some 6,053 loads of refuse were collected and disposed of.

STATISTICS.

I beg to append below statistics with reference to the refuse collected. The figures are based upon the estimated population for mid-year 1959—47,780 and 14,078 premises at 31/12/1959.

HOUSE REFUSE ONLY.

Estimated quantity removed	...	...	20,993 tons
Approximate average weight per house	...	...	1.49 tons
Average quantity per house per annum	...	...	5.15 cu. yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days)	...	...	24 cwts.
Total cost of collection (Refuse, Salvage and Kitchen Waste)	...	...	£ 26,148
Cost of Disposal	...	...	5,196
			<hr/> 31,344
Less Income from Salvage, Tips, Bins, etc.			5,182
			<hr/> 26,162

UNIT COSTS.

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

	<i>Collection.</i>		<i>Disposal.</i>		<i>Total.</i>	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Gross cost per ton, labour only	15	9	2	2	17	11
Gross cost per ton, transport only	8	10	2	0	10	10
Nett cost (all expenditure)	24	7		5	25	0
Nett cost per 1,000 population	£ 538		£ 9		£ 547	
Nett cost per 1,000 premises	1825		32		1857	
					£	s. d.
Average cost per Establishment	...	...			1	17 2
Average cost per head population	...	...				10 11
Cost on rates in the £	...	...	...	...		1 4
Average cost for emptying of one bin...	...	...	...	...		6.8

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

During the year we rested Benton Quarry by (1) tipping for a period of six months in a field adjoining Dudley Senior School in order to make it suitable for a playing field. The Northumberland Education Committee stripped off the top soil before the tipping commenced and have replaced the same to make an ideal level piece of ground and (2) tipping in an old tramway cutting in Gosforth Park which has made an additional car park. Negotiations were taking place before the end of the year for tipping sites which would serve for a period of years.

The tips are sprayed with an insecticide at frequent intervals so as to prevent the spread of flies, cockroaches and crickets and they are examined periodically for rat infestation. It is interesting to note that we have not yet found evidence of rat infestation at the Benton Quarry. This would appear to be largely due to rigid control of tipping and the sealing of the surface each night.

TRADE REFUSE.

Contracts have been made with shopkeepers for an annual charge, payable in advance, of 13/- per bin. Traders invariably object to paying for the removal of trade refuse, but generally, this system works satisfactorily.

SALVAGE.

The table below shows the amount of salvage sold during the year. It will be noted that there has been a decrease in the waste paper from 473 tons to 414 tons, this was due to our being unable to bale paper following a fire which burnt down the baling shed with 10 tons of paper. It was some time before we were able to find accommodation to bale the whole amount of paper which was collected and, unfortunately, some had to be tipped.

Waste Paper—414 tons 2½ cwts. Value £3,337 17s. 6d.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Regular inspections and treatments were made to refuse tips and sewerage disposal works. Allotments and small holdings in the district are kept under strict observation. Inspections are made by the Council's rodent operator and co-operation has been obtained with the respective owners where any infestation of rats has been found. Since the Northumberland Agricultural Executive Committee discontinued their services to agricultural holdings, we have been able to have contracts with a number of farmers and their premises are given four regular services per year, although the treatments necessary are comparatively small, the farmers seem to be quite satisfied in that we are keeping the premises free from large infestations. Sewers in the area have been test baited where necessary, although very little evidence of infestations has been found.

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 ...		14	40	112	22
Business ...		1042	83	199	34
HOUSES	L.A. ...	3145 10351	231	319	51
	Private ...		541	941	179
Agri-cultural	Allotments ...	360 approx	291	322	29
	Others ...	28	36	172	27
Totals... ..		14940	1222	2065	342

Bodies recovered : 186 Rats and 30 Mice.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

On the 1st April, 1958, the Volumetric Atmospheric Pollution Gauge and SO₂ Recorder, sited within the offices of the Public Health Department, were brought into operation. The table below shows the maximum, minimum and average monthly readings for smoke and SO₂ recorded. Whilst it is too early to draw definite conclusions from these figures it is apparant, even at this stage, that our greatest pollution is in the drift from the industrial areas lying to the south and the minimum pollution is found when the wind is from the west after having passed over what is virtually a green belt.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION, 1959.

MONTH	SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE		
	Milligrams per 100 cu. meters.			Parts per 100 million.		
	Monthly Average.	Highest daily Average.	Lowest daily Average.	Monthly Average.	Highest daily Average.	Lowest daily Average.
January ...	18	58	1	4.5	14.9	0.9
February ...	18	32	0	4.5	21.0	0.9
March ...	21	38	8	4.7	10.8	2.3
April ...	16	30	1	3.9	8.6	0.9
May ...	13	24	3	3.1	7.3	0.8
June ...	7	20	0	1.9	5.9	0.7
July ...	7	17	0	2.6	8.0	0.7
August ...	5	13	0	1.9	8.6	0.2
September ...	17	31	1	3.7	15.4	1.1
October ...	17	46	1	4.7	11.9	0.7
November ...	27	74	4	5.4	13.1	0.9
December ...	25	53	5	4.2	10.1	1.1

The record of deposits for the year ended 31st December, 1959, taken by the Scientific Department, National Coal Board, at their Headquarters, have been supplied by the courtesy of Dr. J. Gibson, Divisional Chief Scientist, and the table set out below shows the total deposits since 1951 and the other data for 1959.

Year	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Tons per sq. mile	236	208	197	146	191	185	177	196	159
Rainfall	18.1 inches.			
Insoluble Deposit	101 tons per sq. mile.			
Soluble Deposit	58 tons per sq. mile.			
Total Solid Deposit	159			

The records are far from satisfactory for an almost purely residential area. It is to be noted that there are no factories in the area using steam for power, all the mines draw energy from the electric grid, the only boilers are at pit head baths and schools, and those without under-feed stokers are using smokeless fuels.

It is noted that the total deposit has decreased from 196 to 159, the soluble deposits have reduced from 80 to 58 and the insoluble deposits from 116 to 101, all being tons per square mile.

These reductions may be due to the very fine and extended summer which was experienced during the year as the need for house fires was considerably reduced. This may have been helped somewhat by the fact that a large number of houses are now being fitted with immersion heaters and coal fires are not needed for the heating of water in the summer months.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

The receipt of Circular 5/59 from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was reported to the Council relative to the progress being made towards Smoke Control Areas in "black" areas. It was decided that the matter be deferred pending a definite reply from the Ministry as to whether the District is scheduled as a "black" area. The Ministry was unable to give a definite reply on this question and the Council instructed the Clerk to inform the Ministry of Housing and Local Government that they were of the opinion that the area did not come within a "black" area and, accordingly, it was not proposed to submit a report on the provisions of Circular 5/59 or to take any further action at the present time.

In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to Mr. R. P. Bruce, the 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.

