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**Contributors**

Morpeth (England). Rural District Council.

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Rural District of  
Morpeth



ANNUAL  
- REPORT -  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
For 1948







# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1948.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth Rural District Council.*

LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I, herewith, present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1948.

On 5th July, 1948, the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation and, as far as your Council was concerned, the effect was to transfer certain of your former powers and responsibilities to other authorities. The immunisation of school children and all duties in connection with the provision of ambulance services became the responsibility of the Northumberland County Council. The South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which your Council was a constituent authority, ceased to exist, and provision of hospital accommodation for the treatment of cases of infectious disease became the responsibility of the Newcastle on Tyne Regional Hospital Board, which acts as agent for the Minister of Health.

Payment of Fees to general practitioners for notification of infectious disease is still the responsibility of your Council in the first instance, but all the money so expended is recoverable from the County Council provided the County Medical Officer has received a copy of each notification.

These are the main changes affecting this authority.

Under the new Act, the County Council resolved to set up a new scheme of area administration, and for the purpose of this scheme the County was divided into eight areas. The Morpeth Rural District was included with the Borough of Morpeth and the Urban Districts of Ashington and Newbiggin in the Central Area. A Central Area Health Sub-Committee made up of representatives of the County Council and of each of the District Councils plus two co-opted members was established. Bedlingtonshire, which had formerly been a constituent authority in the No. 2 Medical Area, joined with the Borough of Blyth to form the East Area.

The County Council, with the concurrence of the District Councils, appointed your Medical Officer of Health to be Executive Medical Officer in the Central Area. I continued to be Medical Officer of Health for Bedlingtonshire until the end of the year, but in January, 1949, Dr. A. Donaldson took up duty as Executive Medical Officer for the East Area and Medical Officer of Health for Bedlingtonshire, which then ceased to be included in the No. 2 Medical Area and ceased to be a member of the Joint Committee (Medical Officer of Health).

The Area Sub-Committee, subject to the authority of the County Health Committee, became responsible for the management of the ambulance service and the Domestic Help Service, measures relating to the Prevention of Illness and the Care and After-Care of Sick Persons, Vaccination and Immunisation, measures relating to the Prevention of Infectious Disease, Health Education and the management of Health Centres and other premises vested in the Local Health Authority and used for health services.

In connection with the vital statistics of the Rural District, it will be observed that the Registrar-General estimates that the population at mid-1948 was 17,720, an increase of 1,640 over the figure for 1947. The birth-rate shows a reduction from 19.84 to 18.05 and the death-rate a reduction from 10.32 to 9.4 per 1,000 of the population. The birth-rate is slightly higher and the death-rate lower than the corresponding rates for England and Wales as a whole. The infantile mortality rate has, however, increased and is materially higher than the rate for England and Wales.

Notifications of Tuberculosis again show a slight reduction, there being only 10 new cases reported, compared with 14 in 1947 and 23 in 1946.

The position with regard to infectious diseases was quite satisfactory apart from the high prevalence of Measles and Whooping Cough, for which no adequate measures of control are, as yet, available.

Considerable progress was made with the Housing Programme, but it is regrettable to have to report, once more, that shortage of staff continued to hold up the housing survey.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation of the consideration extended to me by members of the Council and my thanks for the assistance afforded me by the staffs of the Health Department and other departments of the Council.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

C. B. McGregor, M.B., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Rural District of Morpeth.*

August, 1949.



## RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH.

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### OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

---

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	
Sanitary	}	Inspector	...	...	MR. T. T. WATSON, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Certs., Meat Inspector's Certs.
Housing					
Meat					
Offices of the R.D.C.	...	...	...	DACRE STREET, MORPETH.	
Telephone	...	...	...	MORPETH 24.	
Offices of the M.O.H.	...	...	...	146, STATION ROAD, ASHINGTON.	
Telephone	...	...	...	ASHINGTON 2287.	

# RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1948.

### SECTION A.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79,193
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1948 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,720
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£64,528
One Penny Rate produces ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£251.
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,586

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

##### Births :—

Live Births.		Total.		Male.		Female.
Legitimate ...	...	309	...	147	...	162
Illegitimate ...	...	11	...	7	...	4
		320		154		166

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...	...	...	...	...	...	18.05
Still Births.		Total.		Male.		Female.
Legitimate ...	...	10	...	4	...	6
Illegitimate ...	...	10	...	4	...	6

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ...	...	...	...	...	...	30.3
Deaths ...	...	Total.	...	Male.	...	Female.
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ...	...	166	...	91	...	76
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—						9.4

				Deaths.		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	...	—	...	—
No. 30. Other maternal causes ...	...	1	...	...	...	3.03.
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—						
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	...	...	...	40.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	...	...	...	...	...	42.07
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...	...	...	3

The Registrar General supplies the following:—

# CAUSES OF DEATH, 1948.

	Male.	Female.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ... ..	1	—
5. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	—	2
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	2	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	—	—
9. Influenza ... ..	1	1
10. Measles ... ..	—	—
11. Acute Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph. ... ..	—	—
12. Acute Inf. Enceph. ... ..	—	—
13. Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph. (M.), Uterus (F) ... ..	1	—
14. Cancer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	1	1
15. Cancer of Breast ... ..	—	—
16. Cancer of all other sites ... ..	14	11
17. Diabetes ... ..	—	—
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ... ..	10	18
19. Heart Disease ... ..	28	17
20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ... ..	4	2
21. Bronchitis ... ..	3	3
22. Pneumonia ... ..	4	2
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	—
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	1	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ..	1	2
26. Appendicitis ... ..	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	—	4
28. Nephritis ... ..	3	3
29. Puerperal and Post-abort. Sepsis ... ..	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes ... ..	—	1
31. Premature Birth ... ..	1	—
32. Con. Mal., Birth Injury, Infant Diseases ... ..	3	—
33. Suicide ... ..	2	—
34. Road Traffic Accident ... ..	2	1
35. Other Violent Causes ... ..	2	1
36. All other Causes ... ..	6	6
	<u>91</u>	<u>76</u>

Deaths of Infants under one year:—

	Male.	Female.
Legitimate ... ..	9	4
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—
	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>

## INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1948.

Causes of deaths.	Under 1 wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total Under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 months.	Total Under 1 year.
Asphyxia Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gastro Enteritis ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	3
Intussusception... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Prematurity ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia-accidental ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
Congenital abnormality ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Birth Injury ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>13</u>



The following Table show the comparative mortality rate during the past eight years :—

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Enteritis under 2 years ... ..	1	3	1	2	—	—	2	3
Infantile Deaths under 1 year ... ..	18	18	8	16	16	13	12	13
Infantile Mortality ... ..	73.8	69.23	27.97	54.98	55.56	42.07	37.62	40.6

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services For The Area.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are now provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service. For the first ten months of the year the work was still carried out at the Newburn Laboratory, but in November, 1948, the staff moved to premises at the General Hospital, Newcastle.

The extent to which the facilities have been utilized is shown below :—

Specimen sent by	Specimen.	Pos.	Neg.
C. C. T. O. ... ..	Sputa for Tubercle	15	61
General Practitioners ... ..	do.	2	47
General Practitioners ... ..	Haem. Strep.	18	35
General Practitioners ... ..	Swabs for Diphtheria	2	63
General Practitioners ... ..	Enteric Results	—	5

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

From the beginning of the year until 5th July, 1948, the Ambulance Services remained unchanged. On 5th July the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation, and the County Council became responsible for the operation of a service for the benefit of all sick people.

The services run by the Morpeth Borough Council were taken over, but continued to operate as previously.

Arrangements were made for the purchase by the County Council of the ambulances at Pegswood and Stobswood, but until the end of the year the Miners' Welfare Committee at Pegswood and the Ambulance Association at Stobswood continued to administer the services as agents of the Council.

Broomhill Ambulance Committee transferred the ambulance there to the County Council free of charge. Apart from the changes in ownership and control, there was no material alteration in the actual operation of the services.

#### NURSING IN THE HOME.

With the introduction of the National Health Service Act, the County Council became the authority responsible for providing this service and took over direct administration.

The various District Nursing Associations ceased to exist.

Nurses were stationed as follows :—

Cambo, 1; Meldon, 1; Felton, 1; Longhorsley, 1; and Widdrington, 1.

Pegswood, Longhirst, Mitford and Hepscott districts were served by two General Nurses and three Midwives based on Morpeth.

#### CLINICS.

Child Welfare Centres, operated by the Northumberland County Council, were held regularly at Cambo, Linton, Lynemouth, Pegswood, Felton, Red Row and Widdrington.

#### HOSPITALS.

The only one in the district is St. Andrew's Colony, an institution which belonged to the Northumberland County Council Committee for the Care of Mental Defectives and which on 5th July, 1948, became the responsibility of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board acting as agent for the Minister of Health.



## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER.

Water supplies remained substantially unchanged, but an improvement was carried out in the Widdrington Station and Chevington Moor area.

A connection was taken from the 6" main at Widdrington Station and a 3" main was laid via Middle and West Stobswood to Chevington Moor and then by Felton Lane Crossings to link up with the existing 3" main at Widdrington Colliery. This gave an improved main supply to the five smallholdings and Chevington Moor Farm.

The water supply in the Widdrington, Stobswood and Chevington Moor area is, however, inadequate during periods of maximum draw-off. This is due to the existence of a bottle-neck at Ulgham Grange, where the 6" main to Lynemouth and Cresswell and the 6" main to Widdrington Station are both supplied by the 6" main from Hebron reservoir, and to the fact that Lynemouth lies at a lower level than Widdrington.

The shortage is being aggravated by the building of new houses in both areas. It was realised that in the absence of an improved main supply this situation would continue to deteriorate as housing development proceeded.

To overcome this position a scheme was drawn up which provided for the laying of an additional 7" main from Hebron reservoir via Cockle Park - Tritlington Cross-roads to Ulgham and Ulgham Grange, where it would connect with the 6" main to the Lynemouth area. This would leave the existing 6" main to serve the Widdrington area only.

In addition it was proposed to lay a 3" main from the Cockle Park - Tritlington Cross-roads to Tritlington Village, Tritlington School and south on the Great North Road to Priestbridge. This area contains two large dairy farms and a school, with some 40 pupils in addition to the houses, and all are inadequately watered.

A further extension was proposed from the loop main near Widdrington Colliery to Chevington Station and West Chevington farm. Several houses in this area have no water supply at all and the farm with a large dairy herd has a doubtful supply liable to contamination.

This scheme was prepared in detail and submitted to the Ministry of Health, and a public inquiry was held in July, 1948. No objections were raised, and after an interval the Council was informed that the scheme was approved with the exception of the extension from Tritlington School to Priestbridge.

It is hoped that this scheme will be completed in 1949.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

In the parishes of West and East Chevington, Lynemouth, Ellington, Hepscott and Cresswell, and at Mitford Hutments, scavenging is carried out by direct labour. At East and West Chevington there are employed three men with three horses and specially-constructed carts. There are 856 houses, of which the majority have privy middens. The estimated weight of refuse collected during the year was 4,261 tons.

In the parishes of Lynemouth, Cresswell, Ellington and Hepscott, collection is done by four men using a 9.c. yards capacity Bedford Scavenging vehicle. The number of houses is 1,204 and, except in Hepscott and Cresswell, the majority are provided with bins. The estimated weight of refuse collected was 3,748 tons.

In the parishes of Pegswood, Longhirst, Ulgham, Widdrington, Longhorsley and East and West Thirston, and at the Tranwell Hutments, scavenging was carried out by contract.

Two new scavenging vehicles were, however, received at the end of the year, and in future all the above-mentioned parishes will be cleansed by direct labour.

#### SHOPS.

No action has been found necessary.

#### MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

New Licences granted to station movable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	14
Renewal Licences...	...	...	...	...	...	20



## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints or nuisance arising from the pollution of the atmosphere by smoke have been received or detected during the year.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are (a) no public or (b) privately - owned swimming baths within the district.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of private houses found to be infested during the year ... .. Nil.

Number of Council Houses found to be infested during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil.
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

35 Houses were disinfected during the year.

The method employed for the disinfestation of houses is by means of "Zaldecide" as a spray and sulphur dioxide.

## RATS, MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The scavenging tips, salvage depot and many inhabited areas have, during the year, received regular attention from the Council's own rat catcher.

Situation of Taps: Broomfield, 2; Widdrington, 1; Longhirst, 1; Pegswood, 1; Lynemouth, 1; Longhorsley, 1; Hepscott, 1; Old Moor, 1.

The central salvage depot is at Pegswood.

## SCHOOLS.

There are 18 schools, and all have sufficient water supply except Cambo, where the water from time to time becomes rather scarce.

Twelve schools have the water carriage system with sufficiency of water. This is an increase of two.

Small sewage works have been provided at Hartburn and Netherwitton schools, consisting of settling tank and filter, and the water carriage system has been installed.

## WATER SAMPLES.

Six samples of water have been taken and submitted to the County Laboratory, High Street, Newburn, for bacteriological examination.

The bacteriological results are as follows:—

Date.	PLACE OF COLLECTION.	No. of Colonies per ml.		Coli-Aerogenes per 100 ml.
		37°C	22°C	
9.8.48.	HARTBURN SCHOOL (Tap)	—	—	50
9.8.48.	MELDON LODGE	..	—	160
24.8.48.	CUTHBERT'S FARM, MIDDLETON	..	—	90
24.8.49.	SCHOOL HOUSE, MELDON	..	—	Nil.
1.9.48.	NETHERWITTON VILLAGE	..	—	Nil.
1.9.48.	SCOTT'S HOUSE, LONGWITTON	..	—	17

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The following works were undertaken during the year :—

New Drainage and Septic Tank ... ..	LANE END FARM, MORPETH.
" " " " " " " " " "	NORTH EAST FARM, ESHOTT.
" " " " " " " " " "	WATERSIDE FARM, THIRSTON.
" " " " " " " " " "	EAST THIRSTON FARM
" " " " " " " " " "	TILESHED COTTAGE, ESHOTT
" " " " " " " " " "	COTTAGES, ESHOTT BROCKS
" " " " " " " " " "	HIGHTHORN FARM, ELLINGTON.
" " " " " " " " " "	FISH SHOP, EAST CHEVINGTON.
New Drainage and Sewerage Works... ..	HARTBURN SCHOOL .
New Drainage and Sewerage Works... ..	NETHERWITTON SCHOOL.
New Drains ... ..	HADSTONE FARM, BROOMHILL.

NEW DRAINS Connected to Council's Sewer	...	...	ELLINGTON FARM.
" " " " " "	...	...	COLDSTREAM BUNGALOW, ELLINGTON.
" " " " " "	...	...	TWO HOUSES, ELLINGTON BANK.

#### ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

New Eaves, Gutters and Downspouts to Houses	...	...	HEDGEHOPE TERR., E. CHEVINGTON
" " " " " "	...	...	HARTSIDE TERR., EAST CHEVINGTON
" " " " " "	...	...	COLLIERY HOUSES, PEGSWOOD.
Repairs to Coalhouses and Privies	...	...	SWARLAND TERRACE and E. CHEVINGTON
New Eaves, Gutters, Downspouts and Repairs to Roofs...	...	...	HOUSES, WIDDRINGTON VILLAGE

Four Houses at Widdrington Colliery were repaired after informal notice. Many houses owned by the National Coal Board have received repairs after informal notice.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Conversions to the water carriage system took place as follows:—

NORTH EAST FARM, ESHOTT	...	...	...	...	...	3
ELLINGTON VILLAGE...	...	...	...	...	...	3
LAMBERT TERRACE, FERNEYBEDS	...	...	...	...	...	6
LIDDELL TERRACE	}	...	...	...	...	34
SANDERSON TERRACE		...	...	...	...	
STRAIGHT MILE, WIDDRINGTON	...	...	...	...	...	1
WATERSIDE FARM, THIRSTON	...	...	...	...	...	1
EAST THIRSTON FARM	...	...	...	...	...	1
THIRSTON VILLAGE	...	...	...	...	...	1
TILESHED COTTAGE and ESHOTT BROCKS	...	...	...	...	...	4
HIGHTHORN and ELLINGTON FARMS	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total ...						56

#### MOSQUITO NUISANCE AT LYNEMOUTH

Treatment of the River Lyne has been carried out by the spraying of oil to combat the mosquito nuisance.



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT:

## YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

					No. of Inspections during Year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws.	No. Outstanding from previous Year.	TOTAL	No. Remedied after letter or Interview.	In progress or being dealt with.
<b>HOUSING.</b>										
STRUCTURAL DEFECTS (summary of Sheet 2)...	...	...	...	...	386	30	—	30	28	2
DEFECTIVE FOOD STORE	...	...	...	...	36	2	10	12	12	—
DAMPNESS ...	...	...	...	...	42	4	13	17	17	—
OVERCROWDING...	...	...	...	...	12	6	—	6	—	—
NUISANCES ...	...	...	...	...	174	48	—	48	48	—
<b>WATER SUPPLY.</b>										
INSUFFICIENT ...	...	...	...	...	30	6	1	7	6	1
UNSATISFACTORY	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>DRAINAGE</b>										
INSUFFICIENT ...	...	...	...	...	84	3	2	5	4	1
DEFECTIVE...	...	...	...	...	—	4	—	4	4	—
<b>SANITARY CONVENIENCES</b>										
INSUFFICIENT ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
DEFECTIVE...	...	...	...	...	74	52	—	52	42	10
SHOPS, FOOD STORES, &c.,					185	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...			58	—	—	—	—	—
SLAUGHTER - HOUSES ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
TENTS, VANS, &c...	...	...	...	...	84	—	—	—	—	—
OFFENSIVE TRADES	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
WORKSHOPS and WORK-PLACES	...	...	...	...	16	—	—	—	—	—
KEEPING of ANIMALS	...	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	—	—
INSANITARY ASHPITS & RECEPTACLES...	...	...	...	...	112	34	—	34	34	—
ASHPITS IMPROPERLY USED...	...	...	...	...	36	7	—	7	7	—
OFFENSIVE ACCUMULATIONS...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
SMOKE NUISANCES...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
PETROL STORES ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...					1333	196	26	222	202	14

## SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	After Letter of Interview							Total.
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.								
PRIVIES ABOLISHED...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	15
"    REPAIRED ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	14
PRIVY ASHPITS ABOLISHED	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	41
"    "    ROOFED or REPAIRED	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
WATER - CLOSETS PROVIDED	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	60
SANITARY BINS PROVIDED...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56	56
"    "    RENEWED	...	...	...	...	...	...	89	89
DRAINAGE.								
NEW DRAINS CONSTRUCTED	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	62
DRAINS REPAIRED or RECONSTRUCTED	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
OLD GULLIES REPLACED ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
SCULLERY SINKS PROVIDED	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
YARD REPAIRED or RECONSTRUCTED...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
WATER SUPPLY.								
SOURCES CLOSED or DISCONTINUED	...	1	...	Number of Houses affected	.....			5
NEW SERVICES PROVIDED...	...	...	1	...	Number of Houses affected	.....		7
RIVERS POLLUTION								
CASES DETECTED	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
REMEDIED	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
S.D. WORKS PROVIDED	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

i. Inspections for the purpose or provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

PREMISES.		NUMBER OF				
(1)	M/c (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	M/c (7)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities...	1	35	82	—	—	1
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority ...	2	—	—	—	—	2
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)...	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL...		35	82	—	—	—



## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER of CASES in which Defects were Found.				
	REFERRED.				No. of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
WANT OF CLEANLINESS...	—	—	—	—	—
OVERCROWDING...	—	—	—	—	—
UNREASONABLE TEMPERATURE...	—	—	—	—	—
INADEQUATE VENTILATION...	—	—	—	—	—
INEFFECTIVE DRAINAGE OF FLOORS...	—	—	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient...	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes...	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork)...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL...	1	1	—	1	—

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

#### Tabular Statement for Year 1948.

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.			With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total.
(a) By Local Authority ...	Permanent	155	—	155	
	Temporary	—	—	—	
(b) By other bodies or persons ...	Permanent	—	4	4	
	Temporary	—	—	—	
1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING - HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.					
(1) Total Number of Dwelling - Houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...					386
(2) Number of Dwelling - Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...					13
(3) Number of Dwelling - houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub - head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...					218.
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.					
Number of Defective Dwelling - houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers ...					212.
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.					
(A) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 9, 10 and 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.					
(1) Number of Dwelling - houses in respect of which "Notices" were served requiring Repairs...					Nil.
(2) Number of Dwelling - houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—					
(a) By Owners ...	Nil.				
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners...	Nil.				Nil.

(B) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	6
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners ...	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil.
	6

(C) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 & 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil.
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil.

(D) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nil.
4. NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS AND NOT INCLUDED ABOVE ...	44

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in the District ...	94.
Approximate Number of Cows kept ...	1,900.

The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological reports on samples of milk, set out in various categories :

#### TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN — 133.

Producers in the Rural District (taken by "Inside" Officials) ...	30
Producers outside the R. District (taken by "Inside" Officials) ...	4
Producers in the Rural District (taken by "Outside" Officials) ...	99
	133

#### FARMS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT (Sampled by "Inside" Officials).

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK (9 Samples) Methylene Blue Test only. Four satisfied the test.  
Five failed to satisfy the test.

#### PASTEURISED MILK (1 Sample).

Submitted to the Methylene Blue Test only and proved satisfactory.

#### ACCREDITED MILK (7 Samples). Methylene Blue Test only.

3 Satisfied the test.

4 Failed to satisfy the test.

One Sample was examined for B. Tuberculosis and proved negative.

#### UNDESIGNATED MILK (13 Samples). Methylene Blue Test only.

5 satisfied the test.

8 Failed to satisfy the test.

Two Samples were tested for B. Tuberculosis and both proved negative.



## FARMS OUTSIDE THE RURAL DISTRICT (Sampled by "Inside" Officials).

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK (3 Samples). Methylene Blue Test only.

- 1 Satisfied the test.
- 2 Failed to satisfy the test.

PASTEURISED MILK (1 Sample). Methylene Blue Test only.

This Sample failed to satisfy the test.

## FARMS INSIDE THE RURAL DISTRICT. (Sampled by "Outside" Officials).

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK (50 Samples).

37 Samples submitted to both Methylene Blue and B. Coli Test.

- 25 Satisfied both tests.
- 2 Satisfied the Methylene Blue Test only.
- 5 Satisfied the B. Coli test only.
- 5 Failed in both tests.
- 13 Samples submitted to Methylene Blue Test only.
- 8 Satisfied the test.
- 5 Failed to satisfy the test.

Two Samples were examined for B. Tuberculosis and found negative.

ACCREDITED MILK (11 Samples).

5 submitted to both the Methylene Blue and B. Coli Test.

- 1 Satisfied both tests.
- 1 Satisfied the Methylene Blue Test only.
- 3 Satisfied the B. Coli Test only.
- 6 Submitted to the Methylene Blue Test only.
- 4 Satisfied the test.
- 2 Failed in the test.

6 Samples examined for B. Tuberculosis and all were found negative.

UNDESIGNATED MILK (38 Samples).

17 Samples submitted to the Methylene Blue Test and the B. Coli Test.

- 11 Satisfied both tests.
- 1 Satisfied the B. Coli test only.
- 5 Failed in both tests.
- 21 Samples submitted to the Methylene Blue Test only.
- 11 Satisfied the test.
- 10 Failed to satisfy the test.

2 Samples examined for B. Tuberculosis and both were found negative.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following foods were surrendered in the Morpeth Rural District to the Council's Meat Inspector :—

Unsound Foods.	Surrendered.	Seized.
Beef (Home - killed) ... ..	84 Stones.	—
Bacon ... ..	101½ lbs.	—
Cheese ... ..	20 lbs.	—
Butter ... ..	12¼ lbs.	—

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital Accommodation for Cases of Infectious Disease was provided throughout the year at the Isolation Hospital, Ashington.

On 5th July, 1948, this Hospital passed from the authority of the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board which, on that date, ceased to exist, and became the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, acting as agent for the Minister of Health.

Disease.							Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	16	—
Diphtheria...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Pneumonia...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	6
Erysipelas...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	—	—
Measles...	...	...	...	...	...	...	123	—	—
Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83	—	1

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65 years	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	4	14	5	2	1	—	—	—	27
Diphtheria ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia .....	1x	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	8
Erysipelas .....	—	—	1x	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	6
Measles .....	9	17	16	22	21	33	2	3x	—	—	—	—	123
Whooping Cough..	6	12	12	14	16	18	1	—	2	—	2	—	83
x Age Unknown													

#### ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

This term includes deaths from the following seven diseases only :—Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Measles and Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.

Disease.	No. of Deaths.					Rate per 1,000 Ppopulation.				
Smallpox...	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	...	0.0
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	...	0.0
Diphtheria...	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	...	0.0
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	...	0.0
Enteric Fevers...	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	...	0.0
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	0.056
Diarrhoea under 2 years...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	0.169

#### ENTERIC FEVER.

For the second successive year no case of Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever was notified.

#### SCARLET FEVER.

This disease increased in incidence in 1948, and 27 cases were notified as compared with 7 in 1947. Fortunately, the illness continued to be mild in character, and no deaths occurred. Sixteen patients were removed to hospital.



## MEASLES.

After the drop in the incidence of Measles in the last nine months of 1947, this disease became very prevalent in 1948. Altogether 123 cases were notified during the year. No deaths occurred.

## WHOOPIING COUGH.

For the first time since 1947 Whooping Cough attained a high incidence in 1948, and 83 cases were notified. One case proved fatal.

## DIPHTHERIA.

Cases of this disease decreased in number for the second consecutive year and only two were notified, of whom one was an adult, and neither had been immunised. This is the smallest number of cases notified for at least 10 years.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The only schools visited during the year were those at Lynemouth and Longhirst.

Altogether, the primary course of treatment was given at the schools, at Welfare Centres and by private doctors to 368 pre-school children and 167 school children. In addition, 319 children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31st December, 1948, the immunisation state of the child population was estimated to be as follows:—

Pre-school children immunised...	...	...	...	926	...	...	...	...	59.2%
School children immunised ...	...	...	...	2,341	...	...	...	...	91.4%
Total children immunised ...	...	...	...	3,267	...	...	...	...	79.2%

The total number of children immunised increased in both the pre-school and school categories but the Registrar's estimate of the child population increased even more, and the percentage figures are, therefore, lower than those for the previous year.

In connection with Diphtheria Immunisation the following figures of original notifications and deaths in the country as a whole, for the years 1940-48 are of interest, in that they show the remarkable decline in Diphtheria during this period.

Year.	CASES.										DEATHS.	
	Original Notifications.											
1940	...	...	...	...	...	...	46,281	...	...	...	...	2,480
1941	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,797	...	...	...	...	2,641
1942	...	...	...	...	...	...	41,404	...	...	...	...	1,827
1943	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,662	...	...	...	...	1,371
1944	...	...	...	...	...	...	29,949	...	...	...	...	934
1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,246	...	...	...	...	722
1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,283	...	...	...	...	472
1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,469	...	...	...	...	245
* 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,019	...	...	...	...	155

\* Provisional Figures.

# TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947.

AGE.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 — 5 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
5 — 15 years ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35 years ...	—	4	—	—	—	2	—	—
35 — 45 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
45 — 55 years ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	6	3	—	—	2	2	—

# CANCER MORTALITY DURING 1948.

	MALES.				FEMALES.			
	45—	65—	TOTAL	25—	45—	65—	Total.	
ILEUM (S) ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
LUNG ...	3	—	3	—	1	—	1	
PROSTATE ...	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	
COLON...	—	2	2	—	2	1	3	
LARYNX...	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	
LIVER...	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	
PALATE...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
RECTUM...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
GALL BLADDER	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
STOMACH ...	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	
PANCREAS ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
PHARYNX ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
BLADDER ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
BRAIN ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
(S) SARCOMA).	9	7	16	1	6	5	12	



To the Medical Officer of Health of each  
County  
Metropolitan Borough  
County Borough  
Urban District  
Rural District

General Register Office  
(Statistical Division),  
Somerset House,  
London, W.C., 2.

# ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH — 1948. VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1948. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 — 50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—				
<b>BIRTHS:—</b>				
Live Births ... ..	17.9 (a)	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still Births ... ..	0.42 (a)	0.52	0.43	0.39
<b>DEATHS:—</b>				
All Causes ... ..	10.8 (a)	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis ... ..	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza ... ..	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ... ..	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
<b>NOTIFICATIONS:—</b> (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever ... ..	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough ... ..	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria ... ..	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas ... ..	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia ... ..	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—				
<b>DEATHS:—</b>				
All causes under 1 year of age ... ..	34 (b)	39	32	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ... ..	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births:—				
Notifications (Corrected)				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ... ..	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34 (c)

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.				
		Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15 — 44	
140. Abortion with Sepsis ... ..	...	0.11	9	
141. Abortion without Sepsis ... ..	...	0.05	4	
147. Puerperal Infections ... ..	...	0.13		
142—146				
148—150   Other Maternal Causes ... ..	...	0.73		

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.

(b) per 1,000 related Births.

(c) In London puerperal Fever alone was 0.61.





J. & J. S. MACKAY, MORPETH.





