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RURAL DISTRICT OF
MORPETH


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1952

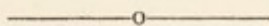
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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1952



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

LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1952.

The vital statistics are very satisfactory. The birth rate has risen slightly, the death rate, the still-birth rate and infantile mortality rate have fallen and all these rates are better than the corresponding rates for the country as a whole.

Notifiable infectious diseases, with the exception of Measles, continued to have a low incidence and, for the third successive year, no case of Diphtheria occurred.

I find it very pleasant to be able to report that the scheme for improvements to houses in Red Row and East Chevington is making good progress and that the standpipes and privy middens there will soon be things of the past. I hope that many of the houses in North Broomhill will also be given improved amenities before long.

Other schemes for improving water supplies and means of sewage disposal are noted in my report as having come into operation and give cause for satisfaction.

The housing programme made good progress during the year, and it is to be hoped that all the very old, insanitary and dilapidated houses at Broomhill, Chevington Crescent and elsewhere will soon be swept away.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I should like to express my appreciation of the consideration you have shown me, and to thank the staffs of the various departments of the Council for the assistance they have given me.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGregor,

*Medical Officer of Health,
Rural District of Morpeth.*

RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	
Assistant Medical Officer	...	...	...	...	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.	
Sanitary Housing Meat	}	Inspector	...	...	...	Mr. T. T. WATSON, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Certs., Meat Inspector's Certs.
Additional Sanitary Inspector			...	...	...	Mr. W. G. WEBB, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. & Meat Inspector's Certs.
Offices of the Rural District Council			...	...	...	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 1952

SECTION A

The Morpeth Rural District, which encircles the Borough of Morpeth, has an area of 79,193 acres and is bounded on the east by the sea, on the south by the Urban Districts of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Ashington and Bedlingtonshire and the Rural District of Castle Ward, on the west by Bellingham Rural District and on the west and north by the Rural Districts of Rothbury and Alnwick.

A large portion of the western section of the district is very sparsely populated and is given over to agriculture, dairy farming and stock rearing.

The eastern parts are industrial and contain the bulk of the population. The main industry is coal mining and there are collieries at Pegswood, Lynemouth, Ellington, Linton, Stobswood and Broomhill. Large areas have also been excavated for the extraction of coal by open-cast strip mining methods.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	79,193
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1952	18,240
Rateable Value	£79,371
One Penny Rate produces	£397-2-5
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1952)	4,757

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS:

Live Births :	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	277	141	136
Illegitimate	12	5	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	289	146	143
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... ..	...	...	15.08
Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability factor 1.07) ... ..	...	...	16.14
Still births :	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	4	1	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births ... ..	...	...	13.65
Rate per 1,000 of the population ... ..	...	...	0.21

DEATHS:

DEATHS:	Total	Male	Female
	162	99	63
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	8.88
Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability factor 1.12)	...	...	9.95
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List)			Nil
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	4	3	1

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	24.22
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.27
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	35
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1

The Registrar-General supplies the following:—

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	1
2. Tuberculosis (other forms)	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	5	3
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	5
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	8
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	15	13
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	17	3
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	2
20. Other Heart Disease	16	10
21. Other Circulatory Disease	3	2
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	1	2
24. Bronchitis	8	1
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	—	1
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	10	7
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	—
34. All other Accidents	2	—
35. Suicide	1	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	<hr/> 99	<hr/> 63

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—

	Male	Female
Legitimate	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 2

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1952

Disease	Under 1 day	1-6 days	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Total Under 1 mth.	1-2 mths.	3-5 mths.	6-8 mths.	9-11 mths.	Total 1-11 mths.	Total Under 1 year
Prematurity	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Gastro-enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Congenital abnormality	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Birth Injury	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	1	1	2	—	—	4	1	1	1	—	3	7

The following table shows the comparative Mortality Rate during the past nine years:—

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Enteritis under 2 years	2	—	—	2	3	—	1	1	1
Infantile Deaths under 1 year	16	16	13	12	13	7	12	10	7
Infantile Mortality	54.98	55.56	42.07	37.62	40.60	21.87	40.26	38.02	24.22

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service in the Laboratory situated at Newcastle General Hospital. The extent to which the facilities have been utilised is shown below:—

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Chest Physician ...	Sputa for B. Tuberculosis	15	106
General Practitioners	do.	—	14
Hospital Medical Officer	do.	6	105
General Practitioners	Sputum for Pneumococci	—	1
General Practitioners	Swabs for C. Diphtheriae	—	6
Hospital Medical Officer	do.	—	21
General Practitioners	Swabs for Haem. Strep.	4	7
Hospital Medical Officer	do.	11	10
General Practitioners	Swabs for Vincent's Angina	2	3
Hospital Medical Officer	do.	2	13
General Practitioners	Swabs for H. Pertussis	—	2
General Practitioners	Swabs for Staph. Aureus	1	1
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	4	3
General Practitioners	do.	—	11
General Practitioners	Urine for pathogenic organisms	—	4
General Practitioners	Blood for Paul Bunnell Test	—	1
General Practitioners	Blood for Widal	—	1

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The ambulance Service is provided by Northumberland County Council. Three ambulances are stationed at Broomhill, where garage accommodation in the Colliery yard is rented from the National Coal Board. There are three drivers employed here and the area served includes the north-eastern part of Morpeth Rural District, the Amble Urban District and part of the Alnwick Rural District.

The Linton, Ellington and Lynemouth areas are served mainly by ambulances stationed in Ashington, and the remaining parts of the Rural District by ambulances stationed in Morpeth.

NURSING IN THE HOME

The domiciliary nursing service is provided by the County Council and nurse-midwives are stationed as follows:—

Scotsgap 1,	Felton 1,	Widdrington 1.
Meldon 1,	Broomhill 2,	Lynemouth 1.

Pegswood, Longhirst, Mitford and Hepscott districts are served by three nurse-midwives based in Morpeth.

CLINICS

Maternity and Child Welfare Services are provided by the County Council, and clinics are held as follows:—

Infant Welfare Clinics.—Cambo, Village Hall Thursday 1-30—4 p.m. at 4-weekly intervals.
Linton, Miners' Welfare, alternate Fridays, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon.
Longhorsley, Rose Cottage, Tuesday, 1-30—4 p.m. at 4-weekly intervals.
Lynemouth, Methodist Church Hall, alternate Tuesday, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon
and 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Pegswood, Miners' Welfare Hall, alternate Tuesdays, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon
1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Red Row, Parish Hall, every Wednesday 9-30 a.m.—12 noon and
1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Widdrington, Social Club, every Tuesday 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Toddlers' Clinics.—Red Rod, Parish Hall, Wednesday, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon at 4-weekly intervals.
Diphtheria Immunisation.—Lynemouth, Methodist Church Hall, Tuesday, 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m. at 4-weekly intervals.
Red Row, Parish Hall, Wednesday, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon at 4-weekly intervals.
Ante-Natal Clinics.—Lynemouth, Methodist Church Hall, Tuesday, 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m. at 4-weekly intervals.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

In the western and other rural parts of the district many properties have unsatisfactory and inadequate water supplies.

Numerous farms in the Eshott area are in serious difficulties because of lack of water, and the Council had hoped to obtain, before now, a supply from the Eshott borehole which supplied the adjoining aerodrome during the war. Large quantities of water could be obtained from this source, but, in spite of many and strenuous efforts on the part of the Council, it has so far proved impossible to elicit any satisfactory response from the Service Departments concerned. The Council is, however, continuing its efforts and it is to be hoped that some agreement will be reached in the near future.

Progress in improving and extending water supplies has been made in other parts of the district.

BROOMHILL

Following the completion of the new water mains in Broomhill, Red Row and East Chevington, water connections were provided as follows:—

East Chevington	—10 Aged Miners' Cottages.
Hadstone	—10 Council houses.
Red Row	—47 houses,
	1 metered supply to a farm.

CAMBO AND SCOTSGAP

Supplies from the main were provided for 8 Council and 2 private houses, and 5 metered connections were given to farms.

Water mains were completed for 29 Council houses at Widdrington, 10 at Mitford, 12 at Hepscott and 8 at Lynemouth.

LONGHORSLEY

The laying of new water mains was completed during the year and connections were made to 18 Council houses and 12 private houses, and 2 metered supplies were given to farms.

WATER SAMPLES

Twenty-one samples of water have been taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Westgate Road, Newcastle, 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	
20. 5.52.	Longhirst Lane, Farm Cottage; from land spring in field opposite above farm cottage	—	—	Nil
20. 5.52.	Ellington Bank, Ellington; from land spring	—	—	Nil
20. 5.52.	Cresswell Village; from lang spring	—	—	Nil
20. 8.52.	Throphill, private supply — tap	—	—	50
20. 8.52.	Northside, private supply — tap	—	—	25
20. 8.52.	Meldon Village, private supply — tap	—	—	50
20. 8.52.	Meldon Station — pump	—	—	Nil
27. 8.52.	Hartburn School — tap	—	—	5
27. 8.52.	High Angerton — tap	—	—	25
27. 8.52.	Middleton Post Office — tap	—	—	30
27. 8.52.	Thornton House Cottage, Hartburn — tap	—	—	8
2. 9.52.	Netherwitton — tap	—	—	1
2. 9.52.	East Cottages, Longwitton — tap	—	—	3
2. 9.52.	Hill Top Cottages, Longwitton — Local Supply	—	—	50
2. 9.52.	Thornton Moor, Hartburn — Storage Tank at "The Laurel"	—	—	50
30. 9.52.	Longhorsley Village — tap	—	—	50
30. 9.52.	South Linden Farm, Longhorsley — tap	—	—	180x
11.11.52.	Longhorsley Village — tap	—	—	3
11.11.52.	Longhorsley — Tennis Court Field — Mouth of pipe	—	—	17
11.11.52.	West Chevington — tap	—	—	3
11.11.52.	Red Row — 57 Swarland Terrace — tap, Amble U.D.C. water supply	—	—	1

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Longhorsley Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme.

The laying of sewers and erection of sewage disposal works were completed during 1952, and 104 properties in the village were connected to the new system.

Scotsgap Sewerage Scheme

After prolonged delay the responsible Ministry approved a starting date for this scheme and work began in April, 1952. The scheme was completed and in operation by the end of the year.

Mitford Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme

The new sewage disposal plant here came into operation in 1952 and 10 Council houses and 14 other properties are now served by it.

Other works undertaken during the year were as follows:—

New drains	... ..	Link House Farm, East Chevington. Swarland Terrace, Red Row.
New drains and septic tanks	... ..	Cockle Park. Cambo School.

ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

New Yard, Coalhouse and W.C. Doors and Repairs to chimney	... ..	Swarland Terrace.
Repairs to Coalhouses and W.C. Roofs and New Eaves Gutters	... ..	Linton Colliery.
Improvements	... ..	Cockle Park Cottages (4).

Many private owners have carried out repairs to houses, also the National Coal Board in other areas than mentioned above, after informal notice.

SITE LICENCES — MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Number of Licences granted 3

The above three licences were granted by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to :—

- (1) Mr. T. Hart, Ulgham Fence Farm, Morpeth.
- (2) Mr. R. Grieve, Warkworth Lane Farm, Ellington, Morpeth.
- (3) Mr. G. W. Young, Abbey Mills Farm, Mitford, Morpeth.

Regarding Nos. 1 & 2, temporary permission for a period of one year was granted, in each case, by the County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and Town and Country Planning (General Development) Order, 1948.

Regarding No. 3, the County Council refused permission in this case, and after a Ministry of Health inquiry the refusal was confirmed.

The Council's Caravan Site at Cresswell has a water supply and sanitary conveniences for both males and females.

who appreciate a well-controlled site.

It is now well patronised by the caravanners,

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action has been found necessary.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Private houses found to be infested during the year	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Council houses found to be infested during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses disinfested during the year	...	...	...	...	14

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

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The scavenging tips, disposal works, sewers and many inhabited areas have, during the year, received attention from the Council's Rodent Operator.

Situation of Tips : Broomhill, 1; East Chevington, 1; Widdrington, 1; Longhirst, 1; Pegswood, 1; Lynemouth, 1; Longhorsley, 1; Old Moor, 1; and Hepscott, 1.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT — Year ending 31st December, 1952

	No. of Inspections during year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws.	No. of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied by informal action.	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after Statutory Notice.	Legal Proceedings
HOUSING							
Structural Defects (Summary of Sheet II)	1450	162	80	162	—	—	—
Defective Food Stores	13	13	—	—	—	—	—
Dampness	116	30	2	30	—	—	—
Overcrowding	25	25	—	—	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY							
Insufficient	30	2	2	2	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	—	3	3	2	—	—	—
DRAINAGE							
Insufficient	12	5	2	5	—	—	—
Defective	10	4	4	2	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES							
Insufficient	2	1	1	1	—	—	—
Defective	82	46	8	46	—	—	—
Food Premises	214	3	3	3	—	—	—
Shops Acts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc... .. .	136	12	4	4	—	—	—
Offensive Trades... .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces	61	2	2	1	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	4	1	1	1	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	132	51	27	51	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2301	360	139	310	—	—	—

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
SANITARY CONVENIENCES			
Privies abolished	118	—	118
Privies repaired	46	—	46
Pail Closets abolished	—	—	—
Water Closets provided	118	—	118
No. of above for which Grant was given P.H.A., 1936, s. 47	107	—	107
Sanitary Bins provided	106	—	106
Sanitary Bins renewed	92	—	92
DRAINAGE			
New Drains constructed	101	—	101
Drains repaired or reconstructed ..	2	—	2
Additional Gullies provided	7	—	7
Old Gullies replaced	—	—	—
Scullery Sinks provided	97	—	97
Scullery Waste Pipes repaired	3	—	3
Scullery Waste Pipes trapped	—	—	—
Yards repaired or reconstructed ..	102	—	102
WATER SUPPLY			
Sources closed or discontinued 2	Number of houses affected ..		2
NEW SERVICES PROVIDED			
By Local Authority 95	Number of houses		95
By Private Owner 4	Number of houses		4
No. of Dwelling Houses supplied by	(a) Internal Tap	3854	
	(b) Standpipe	902	

FACTORIES ACT

There are in the district 32 factories and workshops. The following table gives details of the inspections made and the defects found during 1952.

There are no outworkers in the district.

1.—*INSPECTIONS* for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	32	61	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies. Subject to the Local Authority's (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ..	32	61	—	—

2.—Cases in which *DEFECTS* were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
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	2	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	2	1	—	—	—

SECTION D

HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

Houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority — Permanent	95	—	95
(b) By other Bodies or Persons — Permanent ..	—	4	4

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

Category	Classification	Number
1	Satisfactory in all respects	318
2	Minor defects	126
3	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	110
4	Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts ..	73
5	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	13

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers 106

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By Owners —
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners —

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

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

(C) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... —
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses closed but demolished (H.A., 1949, S. 3) 1

(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 —
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

4. NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS AND NOT INCLUDED ABOVE 4

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLIES

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

Total number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Producers inside the Rural District (taken by "Inside" Officials)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Producers outside the Rural District (taken by "Inside" Officials)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Producers inside the Rural District (taken by "Outside" Officials)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

FARMS INSIDE RURAL DISTRICT (Samples by "Inside" Officials)

Undesignated ... 2 Samples

2 Satisfied Methylene Blue Test.

1 Sample examined for B. Tuberculosis — positive.

FARMS OUTSIDE RURAL DISTRICT (Samples by "Inside" Officials)

Pasteurised ... 1 Sample

1 Satisfied Methylene Blue Test.

(Not examined for B. Tuberculosis.)

FARMS INSIDE RURAL DISTRICT (Samples by "Outside" Officials)

Tuberculin Tested ... 3 Samples

3 Satisfied Methylene Blue Test.

(None examined for B. Tuberculosis.)

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

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

Ham	...	...	5 Tins	...	35 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Pork Brawn	...	...	1 Tin	...	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Pork Luncheon Meat	...	...	16 Tins	...	20 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Pork Pressed	...	...	—	...	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Pork	...	...	2 Tins	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Veal Jellied	...	...	1 Tin	...	6 lbs.
Stewed Steak	...	...	12 Tins	...	12 lbs.	Minced Beef Loaf	...	...	2 Tins	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Sugar	...	...	—	...	224 lbs.	Evaporated Milk	...	...	2 Tins	...	4 pts.
Evaporated Milk	...	...	10 Tins	...	9 lbs.	Tomatoes	...	...	17 Tins	...	17 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Peas	...	...	1 Tin	...	A2 size	Beans	...	...	4 Tins	...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Peas	...	...	4 Tins	...	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Prunes	...	...	—	...	24 lbs.
Plums	...	...	1 Tin	...	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Raspberries	...	...	2 Tins	...	1 $\frac{7}{8}$ lbs.
Apples	...	...	1 Tin	...	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.	Strawberries	...	...	2 Tins	...	1 $\frac{7}{8}$ lbs.
Pears	...	...	2 Tins	...	31 ozs.	Oranges	...	...	1 Tin	...	1 lb.
Apricots	...	...	1 Tin	...	1 $\frac{7}{8}$ lbs.	Jam	...	...	1 Tin	...	1 lb.
Honey	...	...	1 Jar	...	1 lb.	Pineapple Syrup	...	...	18 Jars	...	14 $\frac{5}{8}$ lbs.
Pickled Onions	...	...	1 Tin	...	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.	Vitacup	...	...	3 Tins	...	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Cod Liver Oil	...	...	1 Btle.	...	1 lb.	Chemical Food	...	...	—	...	1 Btle.
Fruit Fingers	...	...	—	...	40 pkts.						

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board, at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

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

Disease	Age unknown	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—19 years	20—34 years	35—44 years	45—64 years	65 years & over	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	5	Not Known	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Ophthalmic Neonatorum	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles	1	6	45	43	82	5	—	3	1	—	—	186	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	5	4	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	4	13	—	2	1	—	—	—	20	—	—
	2	9	50	52	108	6	2	5	5	2	1	242	3	4

ENTERIC FEVERS

No case of Typhoid or Paratyphoid was notified during the year.

SCARLET FEVER

There was a decline in the incidence of this disease from 30 in 1951 to 20 in 1952. It continued to be a mild illness and no deaths occurred.

MEASLES

Measles again became very prevalent during the latter half of 1952, after having been almost entirely absent from the district for about 12 months. The highest monthly total occurred in July, when 49 cases were notified. The total number notified during the year was 186.

There were no deaths.

WHOOPIING COUGH

Cases of this disease increased slightly in number, but no epidemic occurred.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

Only one case of this disease was notified. The patient was a schoolboy who had come into the district on holiday, and the date of onset of his illness indicated that he had probably acquired the infection before leaving home. The case was a severe one, with extensive paralysis.

One case which was diagnosed as polioencephalitis occurred, but it could not be determined whether this was in any way related to Poliomyelitis. The patient made a good recovery, with no resulting disability.

DYSENTERY

The two cases of Dysentery occurred at different times in different parts of the district. No connection could be found between the cases or between either of them and any source of infection.

DIPHThERIA

It is extremely gratifying to be able to report that, for the third successive year, no case of Diphtheria occurred in any part of the district.

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION

All schools in the district were visited during the year. The primary course of treatment was given, in the schools, at the Child Welfare Centres and by private doctors, to 228 pre-school and 153 school children. In addition, 648 children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31st December, 1952, the immunisation state of the child population was estimated to be as follows :—

Pre-school children immunised	1004	...	71.77%
School children immunised	2745	...	99.28%
Total children immunised	3749	...	90.03%

These figures are very satisfactory, the increase in the percentage of pre-school children immunised being particularly so. The declared aim of the Ministry of Health is to have 75% of all infants protected before they reach the age of one year. While this aim has not yet been achieved, the figure of 71.77% appears to give grounds for hoping that the target may be reached in the near future.

It cannot be too often repeated that "Diphtheria still kills" and I would urge all parents and guardians to continue to take advantage of this simple life-saving measure which has so amply proved its worth in the past few years.

The following table, which contains figures supplied by the Ministry of Health and the Registrar-General, is of interest in that it shows the remarkable decline in Diphtheria in England and Wales since the beginning of the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign in 1941 :—

TOTAL OF DEATHS AND NOTIFICATIONS DURING THE PAST 12 YEARS

Year	Deaths	Cases (Original Uncorrected)	Corrected
1941 ...	2,641	50,797	—
1942 ...	1,827	41,404	—
1943 ...	1,371	34,662	—
1944 ...	934	(29,949)	23,199
1945 ...	722	(25,246)	18,596
1946 ...	472	(18,283)	11,986
1947 ...	244	(10,465)	5,609
1948 ...	156	(8,035)	3,575
1949 ...	84	(4,971)	1,890
1950 ...	49	(2,833)	962
1951 ...	34	—	699
1952 ...	31	—	375

The average annual number of deaths for the ten-year period 1931/40 was 2,800.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1952

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1-4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 years	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25-34 years	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
35-44 years	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-64 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	6	1	—	2	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

There were notified during the year 11 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were three deaths from the Pulmonary type of the disease and none from the Non-Pulmonary, compared with one from each form of the disease in 1951.

Death rate per 1,000 of the population — 0.16.

Death rate per 1,000 of the population in England and Wales — 0.24.

CANCER MORTALITY DURING 1952

	MALES								FEMALES								
	10-14	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+	Total	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+	Total
Skin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Brain	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Middle Ear .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Salivary Glands ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Mouth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Larynx	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lung	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	5
Stomach	—	—	2	—	1	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	4
Caecum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Colon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Rectum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gall-bladder .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Kidney	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bladder	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Totals ..	1	2	2	3	2	1	4	15	1	1	1	1	4	4	2	6	20

Death rate per 1,000 of population — 1.92

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1952. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administrative County
Births				
Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
Live Births	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6
Still Births	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34
	22.6 (a)	24.6 (a)	23.0 (a)	19.2 (a)
Deaths				
All Causes	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31
Influenza	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23
Pneumonia	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57
Acute poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Non-paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18
Puerperal pyrexia	17.87 (a)	23.94 (a)	10.22 (a)	30.77 (a)
Deaths				
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
All causes under 1 year of age	27.6 (b)	31.2	25.8	23.8
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 yrs. of age	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

Intermediate List No. and Cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)	Rates per million women Aged 15-44
A115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	61	0.09	—
Abortion with toxæmia	13	0.02	1
A116 Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	147	0.21	—
A117 Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	59	0.09	—
A118 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	31	0.04	3
A119 Abortion with sepsis	47	0.07	5
A120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	138	0.20	—

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

