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**Rural District of  
Morpeth**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

**For the Year 1953**

Printed by Edward N. Davison,  
Advertiser Office, Ashington.





## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1953

To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth  
Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my report for the year 1953.

The vital statistics are, again, very satisfactory. The birth, still birth, death, maternal mortality infantile mortality and Tuberculosis mortality rates are all better than the corresponding rates for the country as a whole. The last two rates, i.e. the infantile and Tuberculosis mortality rates, are certainly the lowest recorded in the past 15 years and are probably the lowest ever recorded in the district.

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases remained low during 1953 and for the fourth successive year no case of Diphtheria occurred. Not since 1946 has any death been caused by this disease.

Excellent progress has been made with the installation of improved amenities in the houses at East Chevington and details of the work accomplished are set out in my report.

The Rural Housing Survey was completed during the year and provides the Council with information essential to the proper planning of an improvement and slum clearance programme. Many old, damp, insanitary cottages and houses are still inhabited and all interested in improving living conditions and safeguarding the health of the people will wish to see these properties cleared away as soon as possible.

Housing in a rural district constitutes a much more difficult problem than it does in an urban area but it is a problem which must be tackled.

In conclusion, I should like to thank members of the Council for the consideration shown to me and to acknowledge the assistance I have received from the staffs of the various departments of the Council and, in particular, from the Sanitary Inspectors.


I am,

Your obedient Servant,

**C. B. McGREGOR,**

Medical Officer of Health,  
Rural District of Morpeth.

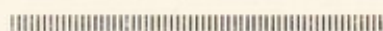




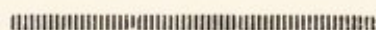
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## RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH



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# RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1953.

### SECTION A

The Morpeth Rural District covers an area of 79,193 acres, of which the greater part is given over to agriculture, including arable and dairy farming and stock rearing.

This, mainly western, portion of the district is sparsely populated and here most of the population is employed in the farming industry.

The other main industry is coal mining, which is carried out at six collieries, viz. Pegswood, Lynemouth, Ellington, Linton, Stobswood and Broomhill, which are all situated in the eastern half of the district.

Open-cast strip mining of coal is, also, being extensively carried out and has resulted in considerable discomfort and annoyance to residents in adjacent houses and villages, owing to the enormous quantities of dust blown from the excavated sites on windy days in dry weather. Representations concerning this nuisance, have been made to the responsible ministry on several occasions and it is to be hoped that adequate means of control will be found and adopted.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres .....	79,193
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1953 .....	18,060
Rateable Value .....	£78,791
One Penny Rate produces .....	£309 1 6
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1953) .....	4,897

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### BIRTHS :

<b>Live Births :</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Legitimate .....	296	158	138
Illegitimate .....	8	4	4
	<u>304</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>142</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .....			15.83
Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability factor 1.07) .....			16.94
<b>Still Births</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Legitimate .....	4	2	2
	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births .....			12.99
Rate per 1,000 of the population .....			0.22

#### DEATHS :

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
	163	98	65
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population .....			9.02
Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability factor 1.12) .....			10.10
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List .....			Nil
<b>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks :</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Legitimate .....	3	1	2
	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>



**Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :**

All Infants per 1,000 live births .....	16.45
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	16.89
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	31
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	Nil

The Registrar-General supplies the following :

**CAUSES OF DEATH, 1953**

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory .....	—	1
2. Tuberculosis (other forms) .....	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease .....	1	—
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	—	2
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach .....	7	—
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	3	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast .....	—	—
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus .....	—	2
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .....	12	7
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	—	—
16. Diabetes .....	—	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	12	10
18. Coronary Disease, Angina .....	19	8
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	4	4
20. Other Heart Diseases .....	14	11
21. Other Circulatory Diseases .....	1	1
22. Influenza .....	1	—
23. Pneumonia .....	1	3
24. Bronchitis .....	7	2
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	1	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	1	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	2	—
29. Hyperlasia of prostate .....	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations .....	1	2
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .....	4	7
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	2	—
34. All other Accidents .....	3	1
35. Suicide .....	1	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War .....	1	—
	98	65

**Deaths of Infants under 1 year :**

	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	3	2
Illegitimate .....	—	—
	3	2

**CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE MORPETH RURAL DISTRICT**

	Total No.	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation .....	62	38.04
Malignant Neoplasms .....	31	19.00
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System .....	22	13.50
Diseases of the Respiratory System .....	15	9.20
Accidents (including Road Accidents) .....	6	3.62
	136	83.36



## INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1953

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 yr.
Congenital Abnormality	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Birth Injury	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity (Maternal Accidental Haem.)	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	1	2	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	2	5

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

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Enteritis under 2 years	—	—	2	3	—	1	1	1	—
Infantile Deaths under 1 year	16	13	12	13	7	12	10	7	5
Infantile Mortality	55.56	42.07	37.62	40.60	21.87	40.26	38.02	24.22	16.45

## 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 .....	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis .....	12	111
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	do. ....	1	30
General Practitioners .....	do. ....	1	6
	Miscellaneous—for B. Tuberculosis ...	2	26
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	Swabs for Staphylococci .....	1	—
General Practitioners .....	do. ....	5	—
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	Swabs for Streptococci .....	4	3
General Practitioners .....	do. ....	8	10
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	Swabs for C. Diphtheriae .....	—	7
General Practitioners .....	do. ....	—	16
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	Swabs for Vincent's Angina .....	—	6
General Practitioners .....	do. ....	—	5
General Practitioner .....	Swab for H. Pertussis .....	—	1
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms .....	—	8
General Practitioners .....	do. ....	6	7
Medical Officer of Health .....	do. ....	4	6
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....			
General Practitioners .....	Miscellaneous for Pathogenic Organisms	12	2

#### 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 ;  
Meldon 1 ;

Felton 1 ;  
Broomhill 2 ;

Widdrington 1 ;  
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**—Acklington (Aerodrome) alternate Tuesday afternoons.

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 Tuesdays 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 and 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 Thursday 1.30 p.m.—4 p.m.

**Toddlers' Clinics** —Red Row, 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.

Acklington (Aerodrome), Tuesday afternoons at 4-weekly intervals.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER SUPPLIES

The following tables give particulars of the numbers of houses supplied (a) by internal tap and (b) by standpipe with water distributed through mains belonging to Morpeth Rural District Council or other authorities.

If these details are compared with those given in the Annual Report for 1946, it will be seen that there has been considerable improvement in the water supply position in the intervening years.

The water supplied by Tynemouth Corporation has been adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality.

The position has been greatly improved at East Chevington where the majority of the houses now have internal taps, and improvements are still continuing.

# **PARISHES SUPPLIED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, WITH WATER DISTRIBUTED THROUGH COUNCIL'S MAINS.**

Parish	Total No. of Houses	Estimated Population	Houses Supplied by Councils Mains.		Source of Main Supply
			(a) Internal Tap	(b) Standpipe	
Cambo .....	27	60	27	—	Spring
Chevington E. ....	850	3,500	662	182	Amble U.D. Council's Supply.
Chevington W. ....	47	184	12	7	Tynemouth Water.
Cockle Park .....	11	34	11	—	Tynemouth Water.
Cresswell .....	76	220	58	3	Tynemouth Water.
Deanham .....	5	8	5	—	Spring.
Ellington .....	348	1,264	343	4	Tynemouth Water.
Hadstone .....	103	220	101	2	Amble U.D. Council's Supply.
Hartburn Grange .....	14	32	10	—	Spring.
Hepscott .....	136	428	123	2	Tynemouth Water.
High and Low					Tynemouth Water.
Highlaws .....	45	§150	39	—	Tynemouth Water.
Longhirst .....	141	395	76	55	Tynemouth Water.
Longhorsley (3 Parishes) .....	166	468	149	14	Tynemouth Water and Spring Supply.
Lynemouth .....	786	2,897	786	—	Tynemouth Water.
Mitford .....	48	157	30	7	Tynemouth Water.
Old Moor .....	23	80	21	—	Tynemouth Water.
Pegswood .....	759	2,800	757	2	Tynemouth Water.
Thirston .....	99	286	†71	—	Morpeth R. D. and Alnwick R.D.
Tritlington .....	25	103	22	—	Tynemouth Water
Ulgham .....	587	2,083	577	10	Tynemouth Water.
Wallington Demesne	52	169	43	—	Spring Supply.
Widdrington .....	80	361	50	29	Tynemouth Water.

§ excluding Northgate Hospital.

† 9 on Spring Supply.

# **PARISHES PARTLY SUPPLIED BY WATER DISTRIBUTED THROUGH MAINS BELONGING TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.**

Parish	No. of houses.	Estimated Population.	Houses with inside taps.	Houses supplied by Standpipes	Supplying Authority.
Benridge .....	24	72	23	—	Tynemouth Corporation
Hebron .....	23	75	15	6	Tynemouth Corporation
Longshaws .....	3	13	3	—	Tynemouth Corporation
Molesden .....	7	17	2	4	Tynemouth Corporation
Netherwitton .....	37	111	§ 27	†4	Tynemouth Corporation
Newton Park .....	2	8	2	—	Reg. Hospital Board
Newton Underwood ...	13	38	8	2	Reg. Hospital Board
Nunriding .....	6	20	4	—	Tynemouth Corporation
Pigdon .....	14	52	14	—	Tynemouth Corporation & Reg. Hospital Board
Spital Hill .....	4	15	4	—	Reg. Hospital Board
Stanton .....	22	70	12	—	Tynemouth Corporation & Reg. Hospital Board
Tranwell .....	46	154	42	—	Tynemouth Corporation & Morpeth Borough
Witton Shields .....	3	10	2	—	Reg. Hospital Board
Total .....	204	655	158	16	

§ 7 on main supply. 20 on private spring Supply a dequate and pure.

† on private spring supply.

There are still 23 parishes entirely without piped water supplies from public mains and details concerning them are set out in the following table.



## PARISHES ENTIRELY WITHOUT PIPED SUPPLIES FROM PUBLIC MAINS

Parish.	No. of Houses	Estimated Population	
Angerton, High .....	21	65	
Angerton, Low .....	15	47	
Bullock's Hall .....	3	13	
Causey Park .....	19	49	
Corridge .....	1	4	
Earsdon .....	11	35	
Earsdon Forest .....	5	20	
Edington .....	7	24	
Hartburn .....	7	28	
Highlaws .....	2	7	
Longwitton .....	23	80	
Meldon .....	29	92	
Middleton, North .....	20	60	
Middleton, South .....	2	9	
Rivergreen .....	6	24	
Thornton, East .....	10	33	
Thornton, West .....	13	46	
Throphill .....	7	25	
Todridge .....	1	10	
Whitridge .....	1	4	
Eshott .....	28	114	All have internal taps from excellent borehole supply.
Bockenfield .....	18	83	6 have internal taps and 1 has standpipe from excellent borehole supply
Fenrother .....	16	52	3 houses have internal taps from good borehole supply.
Total .....	265	924	

### BROOMHILL

During 1953 internal taps and wash-up sinks were installed in 81 houses in Hedgehope Terrace, 3 houses in Linhope Terrace and 54 houses in Hartside Terrace, East Chevington.

The erection of the water-tower at Broomhill should be completed in 1954 and the water pressure in the mains should then be adequate for all demands upon the supply.

### FAIRMOOR

Following prolonged negotiations with the Regional Hospital Board, the Council obtained permission to draw water from the main belonging to Northgate Hospital, to supply properties at Fairmoor. The work of laying 740 yards of 3" main commenced in November, 1953 and was almost completed, and two properties, previously without water, were connected to the main supply by the end of the year.

### HIGH ANGERTON

A water supply and sinks were provided for 4 houses.

### LOW ANGERTON

A water supply and sinks were provided for 5 houses.



Hedgehope Terrace, East Chevington—before improvements were carried out.





Hedgehope Terrace—after completion of improvements.



## WATER SAMPLES

Twenty-four 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.	Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml.
3. 6.53	Tap—Nunriding Hall, Mitford, Artificial Lake .....	180x
3. 6.53	Tap—Throphill, Mitford—Spring .....	50
7. 7.53	Tap—Meldon, Northside .....	Nil
7. 7.53	Tap—Hartburn School .....	1
7. 7.53	Tap—Post Office, Middleton Village .....	180x
7. 7.53	Tap—High Angerton .....	90
14. 7.53	Spring—Longlee Farm, Netherwitton .....	18
14. 7.53	Spring—Parkhead Farm, Netherwitton .....	20
14. 7.53	Spring—Doehill Farm, Netherwitton .....	5
14. 7.53	Tap—The Barn's Farm, Netherwitton Road .....	180x
21. 7.53	Spring—Front of Longwitton Hall .....	90
21. 7.53	Spring—Burn Field, Longwitton .....	1
21. 7.53	Spring—Collecting Chamber, Netherwitton Hall Supply .....	18
21. 7.53	Spring—Barns Supply, Netherwitton .....	50
18. 8.53	Spring—Well, Causey Park Village .....	5
18. 8.53	Spring—Tap, Causey Park Farmhouse .....	1
18. 8.53	Borehole—Forster's Farmhouse, Fenrother—Tap .....	Nil
18. 8.53	Spring—Tap, Langdale's Farm, Fenrother .....	160
6.10.53	Tap—Farm Cottage, Middle Fenrother .....	11
6.10.53	Collecting Chamber, Middle Fenrother .....	Nil
6.10.53	Tap—Farm Cottages, Fenrother Lane .....	25
24.11.53	Tap—Hill Top Cottages, Longwitton .....	Nil
24.11.53	Tap—Longwitton Cottages .....	Nil
24.11.53	Tap—Netherwitton .....	Nil

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

**Mitford Sewerage Scheme.** This scheme was finally completed in March, 1953.

The following works were undertaken during the year.

New Drains .....	East Chevington, Scots Gap, Mitford and Hebron.
New Drains and Septic Tank .....	West Thirston, Hemscott Hill, Tritlington, Ellington, Hagg Farm Cottages.

## ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Repairs to coalhouses, W.C. roofs, eaves-gutters and houses have been carried out at Pegswood and new yards have been provided and houses repaired at Lynemouth.

**Swarland Terrace.** The north half of the street has been made up by the National Coal Board and improvements to the south half of the street have been carried out by the County Council.

### East Chevington :

As already mentioned, improvements are being made here, on a large scale.

**Hedgehope Terrace, 81 houses.** New outbuildings comprising coalhouses and W.C.'s have been provided for all the houses and a new tarmacadam road has been completed.

**Linhope Terrace.** Three houses in this terrace have been provided with new coalhouses and W.C.s.

**Hartside Terrace, 87 houses.** By the end of the year similar services had been provided for 54 houses in this terrace and a new road was in course of construction.

The old coal houses and privy middens in Hedgehope Terrace were entirely cleared away and the sites levelled off.

**Ferneybeds.** Twenty-six new doors were provided, two blocks of W.C.s and coalhouses were rebuilt, new eavesgutters and downspouts fixed and general repairs carried out.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Remarkable progress has been made in the work of privy conversion during the year.

East Chevington .....	138	Tritlington .....	6
Hagg Farm Cottages, Ellington .....	4	Scots Gap .....	2
Hemscott Hill .....	1	West Thirston .....	1
Abbey Mills Mitford .....	2	Longhirst .....	1
Ulgham .....	1	Total .....	156



## SCHOOLS

There are 18 schools and all have a sufficient water supply. Fifteen schools have the water carriage system. The three schools which have privies or pail closets are Hepscott, Thirston and Mitford.

In the village of Mitford the sewers were extended to the school in 1952, but the school authorities have not yet carried out a privy conversion scheme.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection and disposal of refuse from 28 parishes is carried out by the Cleansing Department. Five motor vehicles, one Bedford and four Karriers, 10 cubic yards capacity, and one horse with a specially constructed cart, are employed in this work. The Bedford is used only occasionally. The majority of the bins are emptied twice each week.

The following are the parishes which are included in the above service :

1. Hepscott.	10. East Chevington.	19. High and Low Highlaws.
2. Pegswood.	11. West Chevington.	20. Benridge.
3. Longhirst.	12. Hadstone.	21. Hebron.
4. Old Moor.	13. East and West Thirston.	22. Cockle Park.
5. Ellington.	14. Longhorsley (3 parishes).	23. Tritlington.
6. Lynemouth.	15. Tranwell.	24. Earsdon.
7. Cresswell.	16. Mitford.	25. Cambo.
8. Ulgham.	17. Spital Hill.	26. Wallington.
9. Widdrington.	18. Pigdon.	

In the parishes of Longhirst, East and West Chevington, Cresswell, Hepscott, Pigdon, Hebron, Cambo, Longhorsley, and Earsdon, the majority of houses have privy middens or pail closets. The number of houses in the 28 parishes scavenged is 4,328 and the population is 16,750.

The estimated weight of refuse collected was 11,762 tons and the estimated cost per ton for collection and disposal is 16/-.

The total number of houses in the area of the Morpeth Rural District is 4,897 and the estimated population is 18,060.

The mileage travelled by the motor vehicles was 36,039.

**SHOPS** No action has been found necessary.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

New Licences granted to station moveable dwellings .....	11
Renewal Licences .....	7

## SITE LICENCES — MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Number of Licences granted .....	2
Renewal Licences .....	3

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

New Licences	—(2) The National Coal Board, Ashington. Mr. J. G. Hunter, Coastguard House, Cresswell, Morpeth.
Renewal Licences—	(3) Mr. T. Hart, Ulgham Fence Farm, Ulgham, Morpeth. Mr. R. Grieve, Warkworth Lane Farm, Ellington, Morpeth. Mr. G. R. Lumsden, Lane End Garage, Forest Hall, Newcastle.

Proceedings were taken against 3 persons for stationing caravans without a site licence and a fine was the result in each case.

The Council's Caravan Site at Cresswell, has been well patronised by the caravanners who appreciate a well controlled site.

**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 disinfected during the year .....	7

## 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.



## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

There are, in the district, 33 factories and workshops, and all have mechanical power. The following table gives the number of inspections made during the year. In only one instance was a defect discovered and this was remedied.

There are no outworkers in the area.

### 1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	No. Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	33	78	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .....	—	—	—	—
Total .....	33	78	—	—

### 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			By H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness .....	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature .....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient .....	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total .....	1	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 .....	75	—	75
(b) By other Bodies or Persons—Permanent .....	—	21	21

### RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

1. This survey was completed during the year and the final classifications are shown in the following table :

Category	Classification	Number
1	Satisfactory in all respects .....	2,083
2	Minor defects .....	675
3	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement .....	1,899
4	Appropriate for reconditioning and included under Category 3 ...	811
5	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense ...	99



## CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES

### 2. A. Formal Action.

(1) Number of houses demolished during 1953 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action .....	48
(Number of houses included in the above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) .....	42
(2) Number of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action .....	7

### B. Informal Action.

(1) Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above .....	1
--	---

### 3. RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR

Number of houses made fit during 1953 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

(a) As a result of informal action .....	138
(b) By owners as a result of statutory notice .....	—
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	—

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

	No. of separate houses
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year .....	24
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority .....	—
(c) Applications forwarded to Ministry .....	24
(d) Applications rejected by Ministry .....	—
(e) Applications approved .....	24
(f) Total number of applications approved in the area since inception of scheme .....	45
Number of houses not included in the above table approved for grant under Hill Farming Act .....	None known.

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Milk Supply

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

Total number of samples taken .....	10
Producers inside the Rural District (taken by "Inside" Officials) .....	9
Producers outside the Rural District (taken by "Inside" Officials) .....	1
Producers inside the Rural District (taken by "Outside" Officials) .....	—

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

Undesignated ..... 4 Samples

4 Satisfied Methylene Blue test.

4 Samples examined for B. Tuberculosis — all negative.

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

Tuberculin Tested ..... 5 Samples

5 Satisfied Methylene Blue test.

4 Samples examined for B. Tuberculosis — all negative.

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

Pasteurised ..... 1 Sample

1 Satisfied Methylene Blue test (Not examined for B. Tuberculosis).



## CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

Number of certificates issued to Employers ..... 15

The number of food premises in the area by type of business is ..... 53  
(Butchers 7, Bakers 2, Cafe 1, General Dealers 37, Ice-cream manufacturers 2, Fish Shops 4).

The number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, is 13

The number of inspections of registered food premises during the year was 202 and little complaint, if any, could be found with the conditions on these premises. Hot and cold water is installed in all premises but one.

Number of dairies registered ..... 4

The Advisory Committee of the Food Traders' Guild held a final meeting in February, 1953 when it was decided that, owing to the obvious lack of interest among the majority of food handlers in the district, there was no point in holding further meetings. This was a regrettable outcome of all the hard work which had been put into the effort to establish a guild. Nevertheless, something was achieved in that a number of premises were considerably improved as a result of this effort.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

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

Butter	19½ lbs.	Onion Soup	2 tins	2 lbs.
Ham	13½ lbs.	Tomato Soup	1 tin	10½ ozs.
Bacon	23 lbs.	Tomato Puree	3 tins	A10 size
Bacon Bones	30 lbs.	Tomatoes	25 tins	31½ lbs.
Chopped Pork	1 tin ¾ lb.	Beans	19 tins	17½ lbs.
Pork and Gravy	1 tin 1½ lbs.	Peas	10 tins	7½ lbs.
Pork Brawn	2 tins 1½ lbs.	Carrots	1 tin	2 lbs.
Luncheon Meat	8 tins 8½ lbs.	Salmon	8 tins	4½ lbs.
Beef and Gravy	1 tin 1½ lbs.	Evaporated Milk	12 tins	24 pts.
Stewed Steak	4 tins 4 lbs.	Evaporated Milk	1 tin	1½ pts.
Minced Beef Loaf	1 tin ¾ lb.	Jam	1 tin	1½ lbs.
Beef	1 tin 4 lbs.	Plums	38 tins	47½ lbs.
Ox Tongue	5 tins 30 lbs.	Apples	33 tins	29½ lbs.
Corned Beef	1 tin ¾ lb.	Grapes	13 tins	22½ lbs.
Steak and Kidney Pudding	1 tin 1 lb.	Pineapple	11 tins	13½ lbs.
Veal and Ham Loaf	5 tins 16½ lbs.	Peaches	2 tins	2½ lbs.
Cooked Ham	3 tins 13½ lbs.	Oranges	1 tin	11 ozs.
Chicken Broth	2 tins ½ lb.	Prunes	1 tin	1½ lbs.
Scotch Broth	2 tins 2 lbs.	Cranberries	1 tin	¾ lbs.
Vegetable Soup	1 tin 1 lb.	Cherries	2 tins	1½ lbs.
		Apricots	4 tins	4 lbs.

### Meat Condemned at Morpeth Abattoir.

From Mart Cattle	Beef	lbs.	lbs.
" Casualty Cattle	Beef	376	
		3532	3908
" Casualty Sheep	Mutton		465
" Mart Pigs	Pork	15	
" Casualty Pigs	Pork	95	110
" Mart Calves	Veal	20	
" Casualty Calves	Veal	122	142
" All Offals			7039

### Meat Condemned at Premises in the Rural District.

Beef (Home Killed)	lbs.	lbs.
Beef (Imported)	278	
	137	415
Mutton (Home Killed)	20½	
Mutton (Imported)	37	57½



## 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
Scarlet Fever ....	—	—	3	1	10	2	1	1	—	—	—	18	1	—
Pneumonia ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	2	7	1	4
Measles ....	—	4	16	15	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	48	—	—
Whooping Cough ....	—	—	3	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—
Dysentery ....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was no major outbreak of any of the notifiable infectious diseases in 1953. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever and Acute Poliomyelitis were absent from the district and for the fourth consecutive year no cases of Diphtheria occurred.

The majority of the 48 cases of Measles were notified during the first two months of the year and represented the end of the epidemic reported in 1952.

There were four deaths attributed to Pneumonia and one death resulted from respiratory Tuberculosis but none occurred as the result of any other notifiable infectious disease.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

No visits for the purpose of immunisation were made in 1953. The primary course of treatment was given at the Child Welfare Centres and by private doctors to 244 pre-school children and 33 school children. In addition, 230 children received re-inforcing inoculations.

It was estimated that, at 31st December 1953, 69.35% of pre-school children and 95.08% of all children under 15 years of age had completed a course of treatment at some time.

The immunity index i.e. the percentage of children who had completed a course of treatment in the preceding 5 years (1949 - 1953), was estimated to be as follows :

Children under 1 year .....	15.7%
Children aged 1 - 4 years .....	84.1%
Children aged 5 - 14 years .....	82.4%
All children under 15 years .....	77.7%

These figures are very satisfactory but, as has been stressed previously, the immunisation campaign must be maintained. Any relaxation of effort might mean the return of this dreadful disease which killed so many children annually before immunisation became general.

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 13 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
1953	24§	—	240§

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

§ Provisional.

#### TUBERCULOSIS

##### New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 4 years ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 14 years ....	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
15 - 24 years ....	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 34 years ....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 44 years ....	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45 - 54 years ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 - 64 years ....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ....	8	2	—	4	—	1	—	—

#### TUBERCULOSIS

There were notified during the year 10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There was one death from the Pulmonary type of the disease and none from the Non-Pulmonary, compared with three from the Pulmonary type in 1951.

Death rate per 1,000 of the population — 0.05.

Death rate per 1,000 of the population in England and Wales — 0.20.



# CANCER MORTALITY DURING 1953

	MALES										FEMALES							
	15 - 20	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65 - 69	70 - 74	75 +	Total	1 - 4	30 - 34	45 - 49	60 - 64	65 - 69	75 +	Total
Bladder ....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Skin ....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stomach ....	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liver.....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lymphatic & Haemato- poietic Tissues ....	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Antrum (Maxilla) ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Uterus ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Prostate ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchus.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Caecum ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Larynx ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Oesophagus ....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Colon ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Rectum ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ....	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	7	21	1	1	1	2	1	4	10

Death rate per 1,000 of population — 1.72.

# ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH — 1953

## VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1953. 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
<b>Births</b>	<b>Rates per 1,000 Home Population</b>			
Live births .....	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5
Still births .....	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38
	22.4 (a)	24.8 (a)	21.4 (a)	21.0 (a)
<b>Deaths</b>				
All Causes .....	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5
Typhoid and paratyphoid .....	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis .....	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24
Influenza .....	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15
Smallpox .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis) .....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia .....	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64
<b>Notifications (corrected)</b>				
Typhoid fever .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever .....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal infection .....	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet fever .....	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02
Whooping Cough .....	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30
Diphtheria .....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas .....	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12
Smallpox .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles .....	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09
Pneumonia .....	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic .....	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07
Non-paralytic .....	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Food poisoning .....	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38
Puerperal pyrexia .....	18.23 (a)	24.33 (a)	12.46 (a)	28.61 (a)
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</b>			
All causes under 1 year of age ...	26.8 (b)	30.8	24.3	24.8
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age .....	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1

### 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 .....	68	0.10	
	Abortion with toxæmia .....	7	0.01	1
A116	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium .....	166	0.24	
A117	Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth ...	90	0.13	
A118	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia .....	30	0.04	3
A119	Abortion with sepsis .....	39	0.06	4
A120	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium .....	125	0.18	

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

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.









