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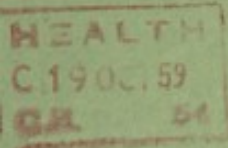
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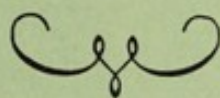


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Rural District of Morpeth



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the Year



1958



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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth
Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1958.

There was again a slight increase in the birth rate, from 18.71 in 1957 to 19.51 in 1958 and this compares quite favourably with the average rate of 17.1 for the whole of England and Wales.

The stillbirth rate at 14.79 per 1,000 live and still births is low and, again, compares favourably with the corresponding national rate of 21.6

Unfortunately the death rate rose to 14.07 per 1,000 of the population compared with a national average rate of 11.7 per 1,000. The total number of deaths increased by 18 over the number for the previous year, the main increase being in the deaths due to vascular lesions of the nervous system which totalled 15 more than in 1957.

The infantile mortality rate also rose and at 33.03 per 1,000 live births is considerably higher than the national rate. It should be noted, however, that, out of the total of 11 infant deaths, 8 occurred within the first 24 hours of life and were, thus, probably unavoidable.

The most important event connected with the future well-being of inhabitants of the Rural District was the decision to re-group the water undertaking with Tynemouth Corporation which, as is mentioned in the report, gives promise of an early solution to problems, which have hitherto appeared well-nigh insoluble within any reasonable period.

The sudden death of Mr. T. T. Watson, Chief Public Health Inspector, on 14th December came as a great shock to all who knew him. He had attended a meeting of the Public Health Committee only 5 days earlier, when he had appeared to be in his usual good health. It was unknown, I think, for Mr. Watson to be absent through illness. He served the Council well during the long period of 28 years and had a profound knowledge of the district and of the many aspects of a Public Health Inspector's work.

In conclusion, I should like to thank Councillors for the consideration they have shown me and to express my appreciation of the co-operation always readily forthcoming from all departments of the Council. In particular I have appreciated the way in which Mr. Webb has carried out the manifold duties and very large amount of additional work thrown on him, following Mr. Watson's death.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. MCGREGOR. M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H.
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.
Public Health) Housing } Inspector Meat }	Mr. T. T. WATSON, R.S.I & S.I.J.B. Meat Inspector's Certs. (Died 14.12.58.)
Additional Public Health Inspector	Mr. W. G. Webb, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Meat Inspector's Certs. (Appointed Senior P.H. Inspector 16.12.56)
Offices of the Rural District Council	Dacre Street, Morpeth
Telephone	Morpeth 793
Offices of the Medical Officer	146, Station Road, Ashington
Telephone	Ashington 2287

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The acreage and boundaries of the Morpeth Rural District remained unchanged in 1958 and the Registrar General estimated that the resident population increased by only 20.

The greater part of the district is rural in character and is devoted to agriculture but near the coast there is a strip of country where the main industry is coal-mining.

The provision of adequate and pure water supplies to the scattered communities and villages in the south-western part of the area has always been a problem but at the end of 1958, the prospect of reaching a satisfactory solution in the near future was brighter than ever before, mainly due to the agreement with Tynemouth Corporation about the re-grouping of water undertakings. This led also to hopes that a satisfactory water supply would be provided for the Broomhill area where the water had, for long, been the subject of constant and well-founded complaints. The completion of the Cambo sewerage scheme early in 1959 will open the way for much-needed improvements in that area.

Area in Acres.....	79,193
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1958.	18,090
Rateable Value.....	£139,247
One Penny Rate Produces.....	£614-9-11d
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1958).....	5121

VITAL STATISTICS.BIRTHS

The figures in brackets are the corresponding rates for England and Wales.

Live Births:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.....	321	159	162
Illegitimate.....	12	3	9
	<u>333</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>171</u>

Standard Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 1.06 x Crude Birth Rate 19.51 (17.1)

Still Births.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.....	5	2	3
	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births..... 14.79 (21.6)

Rate per 1,000 of the population..... 0.28

DEATHS.

Total 207 Male 117 Female 90

Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 1.23) 14.07 (11.7)

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's

Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.

Nil (0.43)

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births... Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

All Infants per 1,000 live births..... 33.03 (22.5)

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..... 28.04

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births..... 166.67

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks..... 24.02

The Registrar General supplies the following:

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1958.

	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis (respiratory)	-	2
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 Neoplasms, stomach	5	2
11. Malignant Neoplasms, lung and bronchus	6	1
12. Malignant Neoplasms, breast	-	1
13. Malignant Neoplasms, uterus	-	1
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms.	11	5
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	15	19
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	24	13
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	1
20. Other Heart diseases	21	17
21. Other circulatory diseases	3	4
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	1	3
24. Bronchitis	4	2
25. Other Diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	2	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	2	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	-
34. All other accidents	3	4
35. Suicide	1	-
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
	<u>117</u>	<u>90</u>

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	4	5
Illegitimate	-	2
	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks:

	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	3	3
Illegitimate	-	2
	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN MORPETH RURAL DISTRICT.

	Total Number	% of total Deaths
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation.....	88	42.5%
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.....	34	16.4%
Malignant Neoplasms.....	32	15.46%
	<u>154</u>	<u>74.39%</u>

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1958.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 day	1-6 days	1-2 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 1 mth	1-2 mths	3-5 months	6-8 months	9-11 mths	Total under 1 year.
Prematurity.	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Congenital Abnormality.	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Suffocation	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Atelectasis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Haemolytic Disease of New Born	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Prolapse of Cord	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL.	8	-	-	-	8	1	2	-	-	11

The following table shows the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Enteritis under 2 years.	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Infantile Deaths under 1 yr.	7	12	10	7	5	4	7	8	8	11
Infantile Mortality.	21.87	40.26	38.02	24.22	16.45	13.75	26.12	28.57	25.08	33.03

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The following table shows the distribution of the various types of fossils found in the various localities.

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SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities:-

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

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	7	not available.
General Practitioners	Swabs for Haemolytic streptococci	13	34
General Practitioners	Swabs for C. Diphtheriae	-	27
General Practitioners.	Swabs for Vincent's organisms.	2	26
General Practitioners.	Swabs for coagulase positive staphylococci	6	31
General Practitioners.	Swabs for Monilia	2	-
General Practitioners.	Swabs for coliform organisms.	2	-
General Practitioners.	Faeces for pathogenic organisms.	3	-
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms.	4	31

6 Sensitivity tests were carried out.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The ambulance service is provided by Northumberland County Council. Three ambulances and three drivers are stationed at Broomhill.

Other parts of the Rural District are served by ambulances stationed at Ashington and Morpeth.

NURSING IN THE HOME

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

Seotsgap 1: Weldon 1: Felton 1: Broomhill 1: Widdrington 1: Lynemouth 1:

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

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES:

These are provided by the County Council and clinics are held at the following places and times.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

Acklington (Aerodrome) alternate Tuesdays. 1.30-4p.m.
Cambo Village Hall, Thursday 1.30-4p.m. at 4 weekly intervals.
Linton Miners' Welfare, alternate Fridays 9.30-12 noon.
Longhorsley, Rose Cottage, Tuesday 1.30-4p.m. at 4 weekly intervals.
Lynemouth, Methodist Church Hall, alternate Tuesdays 9.30-12 noon 1.30-4p.
Pegswood, The Old School, alternate Tuesdays 9.30-12 noon 1.30-4p.m.
South Broomhill, Hadstone Road, every Wednesday 9.30-12 noon 1.30-4p.m.
Widdrington Social Club, every Wednesday 1.30-4p.m.

Toddlers' Clinics.

South Broomhill, Hadstone Road, Wednesday 9.30-12 noon at 4 weekly intervals

Diphtheria Immunisations

Lynemouth Methodist Church Hall, Tuesday 1.30-4p.m. at 4 weekly intervals.
South Broomhill, Hadstone Road, Wednesday 9.30-12 noon at 4 weekly intervals

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Lynemouth, Methodist Church Hall, Tuesday 1.30-4p.m. at 4 weekly intervals
Acklington (Aerodrome) Tuesday at 4 weekly intervals 1.30-4p.m.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies:

No new sources of supply came into use during the year. The south-western part of the Rural district is still very poorly supplied with water, many properties having to rely on spring and well supplies which are often inadequate and sometimes polluted, as will be seen from the results of sampling, set out below. In November 1958 the Council resolved that, subject to agreement between all parties concerned being reached, the Water Undertaking of the whole of the Rural District should be re-grouped with Tynemouth Corporation. Following this, discussions took place about the urgent need for water in the south west area, for which various schemes had previously been proposed and, early in 1959, final agreement was reached on a scheme to be carried out by Tynemouth Corporation on behalf of Morpeth Rural District Council pending the actual transfer of the Water undertaking. It is anticipated that the needs of the south west area will be adequately met by the scheme, of which the estimated cost is £75,200.

The water supply in the Broomhill area also gave cause for concern during the year, very many complaints being received about the quality of the water. Bacteriological tests always produced satisfactory results but the frequent presence of a heavy deposit made the water quite unusable at times. This was thought to be due to the need for pumping and the age and poor condition of the supply pipes and mains, belonging to the National Coal Board which was still responsible for part of the water supply in the area. The laying of new mains and the work of interconnection with the Council's existing new main was hampered and held up by the fact that Amble Urban District Council could not see its way to permit water to be pumped into the tower at Broomhill or to increase the amount of the bulk supply to the Council, although this would have been offset by the reduction of the supply to the National Coal Board and much better use of the existing supply of which much was being wasted because of its poor quality.

Work did, however, proceed, though slowly, and, by December, Warkworth Terrace, Bartie's Town, Railway Row, Railway Property at the south end of Stone Row, 4 standpipes in Station Road and all properties south of Hadstone Road had been connected to the new main.

Further discussion with Amble Urban District was rendered unnecessary by the proposal made, just at the end of the year, that additional supplies for the Broomhill area should be obtained by the extension of the Council main from Widdrington to supply Tynemouth water to the area.

Agreement with Tynemouth Corporation was quickly achieved and this should enable the long-standing problem of providing an adequate and suitable water supply to the Broomhill area to be finally solved.

In January 1958, it was reported that the existing water mains at Pegswood would be inadequate to supply the proposed new houses there and the provision of additional mains would be essential. Ministry approval of the scheme in principle, was given in December.

The Lynemouth area, also, was rather inadequately supplied and the Council resolved to lay additional mains at an estimated cost of £600.

Water Samples.

Thirty four samples of water were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Westgate Road, Newcastle for bacteriological examination.

The bacteriological results were as follows:-

<u>Dates.</u>	<u>Place of Collection.</u>	<u>Coli Aerogenes</u> <u>per 100 ml.</u>
4 2 58	Tap, 4 Hedgehope Terrace East Chevington	Nil
4 2 58	Standpipe, Stone Row, East Chevington	Nil
12 3 58	Tap, Earsden Hill Farm, Morpeth	Nil
12 3 58	Tap, Causey Park Hotel, Morpeth	Nil
18 6 58	Standpipe, Linden Square Cotts, Longhorsley	Nil
18 6 58	Tap, The Cottage, East End, Longhorsley	8
18 6 58	Tap, South Linden Farm, Longhorsley	1
18 6 58	Tap, Middleton Village, Morpeth	90
18 6 58	Tap, Hartburn School	180+
25 6 58	Tap, Cottage, Northside, Meldon	35
25 6 58	Tap, 5, Oakford, Scotsgap	1
8 7 58	Tap, Longhorsley County Primary School	3
8 7 58	Tap, Cottage, High Angerton, Morpeth	35
16 7 58	Tap, Bridge End, West Thirston	1
16 7 58	Tap, Henelspeth Farm, West Thirston	Nil
16 7 58	Tap, Netherwitton	Nil
16 7 58	Tap, Cottage, Longwitton	5
16 7 58	Tap, Hill Top, Longwitton	25
13 8 58	Well, Causey Park Village	1
13 8 58	Tap, Causey Park Farm Cottages, Morpeth	1
20 8 58	Tap, Hartburn School	35
20 8 58	Tap, High Angerton	35
20 8 58	Tap, Middleton Village	180+
26 8 58	Tap, Coronation Terrace, Broomhill	Nil
26 8 58	Tap, 6, Hedgehope Terrace, East Chevington	5
9 9 58	Tap, Hotel, Middleton Village	180+
9 9 58	Tap, East Throphill, Morpeth	180+
25 9 58	Tap, Eshott Village, Morpeth	Nil
25 9 58	Tap, East Farm Cottage, Eshott	Nil
18 11 58	Tap, Stone Row, Broomhill	Nil
18 11 58	Tap, 4 Hedgehope Terrace, East Chevington	Nil
10 12 58	Tap, Rose Cottage, Middleton	20
10 12 58	Tap, Hartburn Vicarage, Morpeth	Nil
10 12 58	Rising Main, East Chevington Drift	90

The final sample was taken from the main carrying water pumped from the colliery and not from any domestic supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Canbo. The work of providing a new sewer for Canbo Village and extending the disposal plant at Scotsgap Village began on 16th April, 1958. Progress was somewhat hampered by the necessity for considerable rock-cutting and by wet weather and, at the end of the year, about three-quarters of the work had been done.

It is anticipated that improvements and conversions of the dwellings will take place in 1959.

Hepscott. A short extension to the sewer at Hepscott to serve additional properties was completed in February, 1958.

Longhirst Colliery. Following the acceptance by the Council of 30 houses and land at Longhirst Colliery as a gift from the Mineworkers Homes Association, consideration was given to the provision of sewerage and sewerage disposal works.

The first scheme prepared was the subject of a Ministry inquiry in May and the Minister, subsequently, refused to approve the proposals. Another scheme was prepared in November.

<u>New Drains:</u>	West Thirston	2
	Longhorsley	1
	Hepscott	3
	East Chevington	1
	Longhirst	7

<u>New Drains & Septic Tanks:</u>		
	River Green Mill	1
	Dove Cotes, Wallington	4
	Longhorsley	1

There are still a considerable number of conservancy type of closets within the Rural district, but the work of conversion proceeds steadily and 20 conversions have been carried out this year as follows:-

West Thirston	2
Hepscott	3
Longhirst	7
East Chevington	1
River Green Mill	1
Dove Cotes, Wallington	4
Longhorsley	2

A total of 456 visits were made to dwellings in the Rural district for purposes of inspections under various requirements of the Public Health and Housing Acts and in no case was it found necessary to institute formal action for repair of properties or nuisance abatement.

It is anticipated that a number of dwelling in the control of the National Coal Board in Broomhill and Pegswood will be improved in stages spreading over the next five or six years.

Schools.

There are 18 schools in the area, all of which are now provided with a sufficient and wholesome water supply and, with one exception, water carriage sanitation.

The exception is in Hepscott County Primary School which still retains its unsatisfactory conservancy type toilets despite protracted negotiations with the County Education Department.

Further efforts in this respect occurred towards the end of the year as a result of which it was hoped that works of conversion would be put in hand during the year following.

Recurring nuisance from the toilets at Longhorsley County Primary School revealed the fact that part only of the school premises were connected to the Council's mains water supply. This matter was brought to the attention of the proper authority and immediately remedied.

A new sanitary block at West Thirston County Primary School was brought into operation as a direct result of the extension of the Council's sewer in that locality.

Public Cleansing.

Throughout the whole of the rural area the collection and disposal of household refuse continues in operation under the supervision of the Public Health Department. In addition to the routine work involved with the removal and disposal of refuse, the service was brought into operation for the levelling of small areas within the boundaries of housing estates to enable the provision of private garage sites and also installed some 30 litter baskets throughout the rural, coastal and mining areas in an attempt to combat with the increasing litter nuisance. The estimated weight of refuse collected from a total of 5254 houses and business premises, was 9362 tons and the cost for collection and disposal amounted to 19/6¹/₂ per ton. The distance travelled by the four motor vehicles engaged on this work was 32,090 miles.

Informal action had to be taken for the provision of 134 standard dustbins and 103 dust bins were issued by the Local Authority.

Refuse Disposal Sites.

Every effort is made to keep refuse disposal points within reasonable distance of the areas served and for this purpose, disposal points have been provided in the following localities:- Broomhill; East Chevington; Longhorsley; Lynemouth; Longhirst; Hepscoth; Pegswood and Widdrington. It has not been possible to provide a suitable tipping site in the western part of the district.

Moveable Dwellings.

New Licences granted to station Moveable Dwellings.....	2
Renewal Licences.....	3

Site Licences.

Number of new licences granted.....	Nil
Renewal Licences.....	1

The Council's Caravan Site at Cresswell continues to be well patronised.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The full time operator continues to give regular attention and treatment, as found necessary, to all Council properties throughout the area including refuse disposal plants, sewers, several sewerage disposal plants and buildings etc. Every attempt is made to survey agricultural holdings and business premises as visits progress from area to area. Many farmers now use "Warfarin" poison and successfully keep infestations under control.

The following table gives details of the amount of work undertaken:-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses.)	All other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1) & (3)	Agri-cultural.
1. No. of properties in Local Authority's District.	21	5135	119	5275	230
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of:					
a) Notification	2	21	22	45	11
b) Survey under the Act	21	532	29	582	91
c) Other wise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	-	-	-	-
3. No. of properties inspected (in Section 11) which were found to be infested by:					
a) Rats. Major	-	-	7	7	8
Minor	18	137	6	161	7
b) Mice. Major	-	2	12	14	-
Minor	3	13	1	17	3
4. No. of infested properties (in Section 1V) treated by Local Authority.	21	152	26	199	18

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

There are in the district 36 factories and workshops, and all have mechanical power. The following table gives the number of inspections made during the year.

There are no outworkers in the area.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	13	52	-	-
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	22	88	3	-
3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	1	2	-	-
Total.....	36	142	3	-

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	Referred By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient	2	2	-	1	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....	3	3	-	1	-

SECTION D.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1958.

Number of New Houses completed during the Year.

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|------|
| a) | By Local Authority. | Nil. |
| b) | By other bodies or persons. | 24 |

Closing and Demolition.

- | | | |
|----|--|------|
| 1. | Houses demolished in Clearance Areas. | Nil. |
| 2. | Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas. | Nil. |
| 3. | Houses closed, not demolished | 4. |
| 4. | Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above | Nil. |

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts:

- | | | |
|----|--|------|
| 1. | By informal action | 30 |
| 2. | By owners, following statutory notice | Nil. |
| 3. | By local authority in default of owners | Nil. |
| 4. | Demolition orders revoked after reconstruction | Nil. |

Improvement Grants, Housing Act 1949.

- | | <u>No. of
Separate Houses</u> |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during the year | 27 |
| 2. Applications rejected | Nil. |
| 3. Applications approved. | 27 |
| 4. Approximate average grant approved per house | £295 |
| 5. Total number of houses approved for grant in your area since inception of scheme. | 179 |

Slum Clearance.

During the year the following action was taken.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of 1 hutment at Longhirst, 1 at Crosswell and 4 huts at Tranwell.

Clearance Order. The 30 houses at Coronation Terrace, Broomhill were made the subject of a Clearance Order, confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in September 1958, without alteration.

Closing Orders were made in respect of 2 cottages at Healey Wood Farm and one at Hepscott Station.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODMilk.

No. of registered dairies..... 6

The following is a summary of the bacteriological reports on the samples of milk taken during the year.

Total Number of samples taken.....	20
From Producers Inside the Rural District.....	13
From Producers Outside the Rural District.....	7
1) <u>Farms Inside the Rural District.</u>	
Tuberculin Tested.....	10
5 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.....	
5 failed the Methylene Blue Test.....	
4 samples were examined for B. Tuberculosis and were all negative	
<u>Farms Inside the Rural District.</u>	
Pasteurised.....	3
3 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.....	
2) <u>Farms Outside the Rural District.</u>	
Tuberculin Tested.....	Nil
<u>Farms Outside the Rural District.</u>	
Pasteurised.....	7
6 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.....	
1 sample failed the Methylene Blue Test.....	

FOOD PREMISES.

1) The number of food premises in the area by type of business is as follows:-

Butchers.....	6
Bakers.....	2
General Dealers.....	50
	<u>58</u>

2) The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Butchers.....	6
Fried Fish Shops.....	4
Sale of Ice Cream.....	27
No. of Registered	
Dairies.....	6
	<u>43</u>

There were two deletions from the register during the year and there were five additions involving 5 registrations for the storage and sale of prepacked ice cream and two registrations for the preparation of preserved foods etc.

In all a total of 485 visits were made to food premises and I am pleased to report that conditions generally continue to improve and that informal action only was sufficient to effect improvement in the few cases where this was found necessary.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in Whole or in Part.

	Cattle exc Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	487	1	-	942	440	-
Number inspected	487	1	-	942	440	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole Carcases condemned	-	1	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	163	-	-	5	26	-
Percentage of Number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	33.470%	100%	-	.530%	6.136%	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>						
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.080%	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The following foods were surrendered to the Council's Meat and Public Health Inspector:-

	Quantity.	Lbs	ozs.
Beef Steak.....	1 Tins	1	3
Minced Beef.....	1 "	6	-
Corned Beef.....	1 "	6	-
Tongue.....	3 "	2	4
Cooked Ham.....	3 "	31	9
Soup.....	1 "	-	15½
Scotch Broth.....	1 "	-	15½
Beans.....	1 "	6	8
Peas.....	1 "	-	15½
Tomatoes.....	4 "	2	12
Oranges.....	2 "	1	6
Strawberries.....	1 "	-	13
Pineapples.....	5 "	2	1
Pears.....	1 "	1	-
Apricots.....	1 "	1	-
Evaporated Milk.....	1 "	-	2 pints

SECTION F.

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

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

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

	Under 1 year.	1 - 2 years.	3 - 4 years.	5 - 9 years.	10 - 14 years.	15 - 24 years.	25 - 34 years.	35 - 44 years.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	75 years & over	TOTAL.
Whooping Cough.	2	1	4	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Measles.	-	2	4	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	2	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Dysentery.	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	3
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	4
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL.....	2	4	10	36	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	63

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

There was no major outbreak of any notifiable infectious disease and little comment is necessary.

Dysentery. The three cases of dysentery were isolated instances, occurring at different times of the year and in different parts of the Rural District

Food Poisoning. The single case of food-poisoning was due to *Sal. Typhimurium* (Thompson) As is usual with isolated cases of food poisoning the source of the infection was not discovered.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis. The single case of this disease occurred in a man of 36 years. He was a sergeant in the Royal Air Force and had recently returned from Cyprus where the disease was prevalent at that time. It is possible that he was infected prior to his return to this country.

He was very seriously ill with extensive paralysis and, although he survived, it seemed likely that he would be left with considerable permanent disability.

Diphtheria. For the ninth successive year no case of this disease occurred and no death has occurred since 1946.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year a primary course of treatment was given to 282 pre-school and 29 school children while 107 pre-school and 91 school children received re-inforcing injections.

It is estimated that, at 31.12.58, the immunity indices for the different age-groups were as follows:-

Children under 1 year.....	28.77%
Children aged 1 - 4 years.....	86.49%
Children aged 5 - 14 years.....	62.37%
All children under 15 years.....	66%

Except in the case of children under 1 year, the index in all age groups is lower than at the end of 1957. This was predicted as being likely, in the Annual Report for 1957 and was due to the fact that the expanded and intensive poliomyelitis vaccination campaign occupied time which would, otherwise, have been devoted to diphtheria immunisation. It was impossible to visit any schools in the district during the year.

It is of the utmost importance that the immunisations in schools should be resumed at the earliest possible date and it is to be hoped that this will be possible in 1959.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination. During 1958 this scheme was extended to cover additional age groups and very large numbers of children were registered for vaccination. Separate figures are not available for the Rural District, but figures for the whole of the Central Area of the County may be of interest.

Between 1st December 1956 and 31st December 1957, 3,300 children completed the primary course of two injections but, in 1958, 8,186 persons in all groups completed the primary course and 3,407 children received a third injection.

This involved a tremendous amount of organisation and work and, as already mentioned, inevitably interfered with the diphtheria immunisation campaign and, indeed, with other work as well. If, however, the protection provided by vaccination is effective in preventing the tragic results of paralytic poliomyelitis the campaign and the effort will be worth while.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1958.

AGE GROUPS.	NEW CASES					DEATHS.				
	Resp.		Non-resp.		TOTAL	Resp		Non-resp.		TOTAL.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years.	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years.	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years.	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years.	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	2
75 years & over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.....	1	4	1	2	8	-	2	-	-	2

There were notified during the year 5 cases of respiratory and 3 cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis, a decrease of 2 and an increase of 2 respectively on the corresponding figures for 1957.

There were two deaths from the respiratory and none from the non-respiratory type of disease. The cases occurred in the 65 - 74 age group.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R.D.	0.11 per 1,000
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England & Wales.	0.089 per 1000
Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R.D.	NIL.
Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in England & Wales.	0.011 per 1000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1958.

SITE.	Males.							Females.						
	1 - 4 years.	35 - 44 years.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	75 years & over.	TOTAL.	1 - 4 years.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	75 years & over.	TOTAL.	
Ear.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Jaw.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Thyroid.	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Larynx.	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Lung & Bronchus.	-	-	-	3	1	2	6	-	-	1	-	-	1	
Breast.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Stomach.	-	-	-	1	2	2	5	-	-	-	1	1	2	
Pancreas.	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Colon.	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	1	2	
Rectum.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Kidney.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
Adrenal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	
Bone.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Haematopoietic System.	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cervix.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
TOTALS.....	1	1	1	4	6	8	22	1	1	3	2	3	10	

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District.	0.387 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales.	0.439 per 1,000

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF ALL OTHER SITES.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District.	1.387 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales.	1.685 per 1,000

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF ALL SITES.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District.	1.769 per 1,000
Total Death Rate in England and Wales.	2.124 per 1,000



