

**[Report 1941] / Medical Officer of Health, Morpeth U.D.C. / Borough.**

**Contributors**

Morpeth (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1941

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/j9c97be4>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LIBRARY



BOROUGH OF MORPETH  
-----

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR 1941.  
-----





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1941.  
-----

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Morpeth.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1941, bearing upon the state of health and the sanitary conditions of the Borough.

The design of the Report is in strict conformity with the circular as to the contents and arrangement of the Annual Reports of the Medical Officers of Health.

For the year under review further instructions have been given by the Ministry of Health which, as the War drags on, tend to a progressive abbreviation in the amount of statistical information to be made available, mainly on grounds of national security.

Hence are omitted complete tables of local populations or quotations from figures supplied by the R-G, which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be reconstructed.

The Report is therefore confined to the quotation of rates only and total figures are omitted.

For similar reasons no mention is made of activities in connection with war-time industrial, military and other important developments, such as extensions of water supply or sewerage works or other public utility undertakings.

Of major importance was the endeavour to secure a large degree of protection against diphtheria among pre-school children and school children, and for a first attempt I felt reasonably satisfied with the attainment of 77% of the school children immunised though the percentage (barely 12% protected) of pre-school children, the age group most susceptible to fatal diphtheria, cannot be regarded as other than grievously disappointing.

I have again pleasure in expressing my appreciation of the consideration extended to me by the members of the Corporation and for the assistance of the staffs in the Health and other departments of the Corporation.

I have the honour to be,  
Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES ANGUS,

Medical Officer of Health,  
Borough of Morpeth.

March, 1943.



To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councilors of the Borough of Morpeth.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1941, dealing upon the state of health and the sanitary conditions of the Borough.

The design of the Report is in strict conformity with the circular as to the contents and arrangement of the Annual Reports of the Medical Officers of Health.

For the year under review further instructions have been given by the Ministry of Health which, as the War draws on, tend to a progressive appreciation in the amount of statistical information to be made available, mainly on grounds of national security.

Hence are omitted complete tables of local populations or quotations from figures supplied by the H.G. which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be reconstructed.

Digitized by the Internet Archive

in 2018 with funding from

Wellcome Library

Of major importance was the endeavour to secure a large degree of protection against diphtheria among pre-school children and school children, and for a first attempt I felt reasonably satisfied with the attainment of 75% of the school children immunised though the percentage (barely 15% protected) of pre-school children, the age group most susceptible to fatal diphtheria, cannot be regarded as other than grievously disappointing.

I have again pleasure in expressing my appreciation of the consideration extended to me by the members of the Corporation and for the assistance of the staffs in the Health and other departments of the Corporation.

I have the honour to be,  
Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councilors,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES ARNOLD.

<https://archive.org/details/b29804322>

BOROUGH OF MORPETH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR 1941.

Officers of the Public Health Department  
of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health, )  
Medical Officer Hospital )  
for Infectious Diseases. )

James Angus,  
M.B., CH.B., B.H.Y., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer  
of Health

Catherine B. McGregor,  
M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

F.K. Perkins,  
M.I.M. & C.E., M.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary )  
Meat ) Inspector

J. C. Tweedy,  
M.S.I.A.

Offices of the Medical Officer  
of Health

146, Station Road, Ashington.

Telephone

Ashington 287.

Offices of the Sanitary Inspector

36, Bridge Street, Morpeth.

Telephone

Morpeth 36.

Hospital for Infectious Diseases,  
and residence of M.O.H. temporary  
from 8.11.41.

The Common, Morpeth.

Telephone

Morpeth 433.



BOROUGH OF MORPETH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR 1941.  
SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres - 2,213.

Registrar General's estimate of

Resident population mid 1941 ..... Suppressed Min. of  
H. Circular 2601.

Rateable value - £54,184.

Sum represented by a penny rate - £210.

Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 14.2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 59.3

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population - 13.8

Death from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar  
General's short list):-

Death Rate per 1,000 total  
(live and still) births.

No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis .....

No. 30 Other Puerperal causes.....

Total.....

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.....72.5

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....70.3

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....100.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)..... 16

Deaths from Measles (all ages)..... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)..... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)..... Nil



## INFANTILE MORTALITY - 1940

Causes of death.	Und 1 wk	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	under 1 mth	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	Total under 1 yr.
Marasmus	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Prematurity	3	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Injury at birth	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Convulsions	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>

There were no deaths registered as being attributed to the following causes:- Measles; Diphtheria; Whooping Cough; Meningitis Tubercular; Erysipelas; Syphilis; Meningitis Non-Tubercular; Congenital malformations; Atalectasis, Gastro-enteritis.

### SECTION B.

#### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

##### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Laboratory belonging to the Northumberland County Council. The extent to which these facilities were taken advantage of by the Medical Officer of Health and the local medical practitioners is shown in the table sub-joined.

Specimens sent in by.	Specimen.	Neg.	Pos.
C.C.T.O.	Sputa, tubercle	3	-
Medical Practitioners.	do.	23	2
M.O.H.	Swabs for C. diphtheriae	8	-
Medical Practitioners.	do	20	3
M.O.H.	Swabs for S. Vicenti	-	-
Medical Practitioners.	do.	-	1
M.O.H.	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococcus	-	3
Medical Practitioners.	do	5	3



		Neg.	Pos.
M.O.H.	Blood for Enteric Fever.	1	7
Medical Practitioners.	do	6	3
M.O.H.	Faeces for Enteric Fever.	2	-
Medical Practitioners.	do	1	2
M.O.H.	Urine for Enteric Fever.	2	-
Medical Practitioners.	do	-	1
Medical Practitioners.	Cerebro Spinal Fluid.	1	-

#### AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The ambulance is a Bedford vehicle which was purchased in June 1939, and is the property of the Corporation of Morpeth.

No. of cases carried during the year ..... 305

No. of miles travelled during the year ..... 7,967

#### NURSING IN THE HOME.

District nurses - 3 (one for general nursing and two for mid-wifery cases).

#### TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The Northumberland County Council is the Welfare Authority for the Borough and sessions are held as follows:-

Infant Welfare Centre - Parish Hall, every Monday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Antenatal Clinic - Town Hall, alternate Thursday, 10.30 a.m.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is also held from time to time.

#### HOSPITALS, Public and Voluntary.

No change under headings, 1, 2, 3, and 4 of 1940 Annual Report.

#### SECTION C.

##### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### WATER.

The Corporation possesses its own water undertaking which supplies the major quantity of water to the Borough. A supplementary supply is, however, obtained from the Tynemouth Corporation.

The average daily quantity of water consumed from the Borough undertaking was approximately ... .. 209,954 galls.



The average daily quantity from the Tynemouth Corporation was approximately ... .. 82,032 galls.

Total average daily consumption ... .. 291,986 galls.

This latter quantity was sufficient.

The total rainfall was 18.48 inches.

A number of samples of water was taken from taps in houses in different parts of the town and from the sources of supply and sent for bacteriological examination. The reports were satisfactory.

All the water mains were flushed regularly.

A new water meter between the main of the Tynemouth Corporation and the Morpeth Corporation main was installed by the former. This meter will pass approximately 10,000 gallons of water per hour.

The Chlorination House was erected at the south-west corner of the Morpeth Golf Course near the Borough Boundary, and the Paterson Chlorination apparatus fixed. Chlorination of the water from all sources owned by the Morpeth Corporation commenced on the 1st July and was continuous throughout the remainder of the year.

At the Tranwell Reservoirs the following works were carried out -

- (1) To prevent any unauthorised person from gaining access to the underground reservoir, a shed size 12'0" x 12'0" was erected over the open trap doors adjoining.
- (2) The two filter beds were emptied and thoroughly washed out.
- (3) Brickwork to sides of one of the above was repaired and rendered in cement.
- (4) Approximately 286 tons of washed sand from Seaton Sluice placed into these filters.
- (5) Underground reservoir emptied and the walls, floors, and ceiling washed.
- (6) Floating arm inside this reservoir repaired.
- (7) Valve chamber between surface reservoirs and filters emptied and washed.

New water supplies were laid to -

- (A) Grange House, Mitford Road.



(B) Occupiers of a site near Stobhill Gate, just outside the Borough boundary.

(C) Temple's Cottage, (Outside the Borough Boundary).

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The undermentioned alterations to and clearance of sediment in the existing drainage and sewerage systems within the Borough were carried out.

The following sewers were cleared of deposits of sand and grit and repaired. -

(1) 12" Sewers - Bennett's Walk - 400 yards.

(2) 9" " - Staithes Lane - 150 yards.

(3) 9" " - Chantry Ford to  
Chantry Place - 830 yards.

Three new manholes were also constructed on the Bennett's Walk sewer to facilitate cleansing in the future.

The Tanners Burn Culvert (surface water), which runs through Morpeth from Fulbeck to the River Wansbeck (north of the Slaughter Houses), was cleared of obstructions and deposit.

A new 6" sewer, 150 yards long, was laid from the Corporation sewer to the occupiers of the site mentioned in Water (B) (Q.V.)

A 6" drain was laid at the Old Cattle Mart, Station Bank. This building will be used for decontamination purposes.

Repairs were carried out to the 6" drain from the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Morpeth Common.

The pumps and gas engines at the Sewage Pumping Station, Gas House Lane, were completely overhauled and repaired and new parts, to replace the worn out and damaged, were obtained and fixed.

The outfall sewer from the Sewage Works which discharges into the River Wansbeck was repaired.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action, except as above indicated, was taken.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were two new additional water closets added to the system during the year.



The Public Conveniences hitherto situate within the Butter Market in the Town Hall were removed and the amenity of the entrance hall has been most considerably improved thereby.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Public cleansing is operated by direct labour. Refuse collection is carried out daily and is deposited in an old sand pit at Shadfen, some 1½ miles out of the town proper. This tip is in the area of the Morpeth Rural District Council and is situate 200 yards from the Choppington Road and there are no buildings within 400 yards.

This tip will probably last six years.

#### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

##### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

1.	Defective and insufficient ash accommodation	...	15
2.	Defective water closets	...	23
3.	New Drains inspected ..	...	3
4.	Obstructed drains	...	86
5.	Disinfected Rooms and houses.	...	18
6.	Patients removed to Hospital.	...	8
7.	Dangerous chimney and gables.	...	2

#### CAMPING SITES.

There are no civilian camping sites within the Borough.

#### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was taken under this heading.

#### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is none within the district.

#### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

- (1) Number of Council houses found to be infected during the year was seventeen.

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

- (2) The method employed for disinfecting houses is by means of Zaldecide as a spray.

- (3) The method employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses is by (2) above.

- (4) Disinfestation has been carried out by or under the supervision of the Assistant Sanitary Inspector.



## SCHOOLS.

There are five schools, including the New Senior School at Mitford Road for elementary school children and two schools for secondary education, all having a water supply from the Corporation mains and modern sanitary conveniences. The New Senior Schools have H. & C. water showers.

## SECTION D.

### Housing.

The following is a tabular statement for the year 1941.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total.
By Local Authority	-	-	-
By other Bodies or persons	-	-	-
Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-			
1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	...	...	172
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	203
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	...	...	Nil
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	...	...	Nil
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	...	...	172

### 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 . . . . .	172
---	-----

Action under Statutory Powers - Nil.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk Supply.

There are eight cowkeepers and twelve milk purveyors in the Borough. These have been regularly visited and the premises inspected.

Thirty samples of milk were taken and sent to the County Laboratory for report.

For Cleanliness: On testing for B. coli there were two samples which failed to pass the test. Further samples, however, taken at a later date were again submitted and proved to be satisfactory.

For Tuberculosis: Fifteen samples of milk from herds, some within and some without the Borough, were submitted to the County Laboratory for the biological test for M. tuberculosis. All these samples were found to be free from any such contamination.

Notices for lime-washing of cow houses were sent out and these were complied with.

### Dairies & Cowsheds.

Cowkeepers .....	8	Inspections made .....	156
Dairies and Milk Purveyors .....	12	Notices served .....	36

### Meat and Other Foods.

The slaughter houses situate in the Borough were under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Food and therein was carried out the slaughtering of cattle for the Borough of Morpeth, and the Rural District of Morpeth.

The slaughtering of the cattle was carried out by a contractor appointed by the Ministry under the supervision of a slaughter house manager, also appointed by the Ministry of Food.

The total number of animals slaughtered for human consumption was as follows:-

Bovine ... ..	984
Sheep and Lambs ...	5,608
Pigs ... ..	931
Calves ... ..	380
Total	<u>7,903</u>



All these carcasses were inspected and the following surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

Bovine ... ..	38
Sheep and Lambs ...	60
Pigs ... ..	12
Calves ... ..	8
Total ...	118

These were handed to the Ministry of Food for appropriate disposal. The weight of these carcasses was 5 tons, 10 cts, 3 qr., 18 lb.

The number of visits to the Slaughter Houses was 514.

Below is found in table form certain information relating to the Ante and Post Mortem Inspections of animals.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs
NUMBER KILLED	885	99	380	5,608	931
Number inspected	885	99	380	5,608	931
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned:-	18	-	8	60	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	134	-	3	32	22
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	17.17	-	2.89	1.62	3.104
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>	Bovine	Cows.	Calves.	Pigs.	
Whole carcass condemned:-	12	8	2	5	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:-	14	3	2	10	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	2.94	11.10	1.05	1.61	

In addition the following were surrendered:-

	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Ox Livers due to Parasitic Diseases, etc.	16	0	20
Beef ... ..	14	0	10
Mutton and Lamb ... ..	1	0	2



	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Pork ... ..	2	0	0
Sheep Heads and Plucks ... ..	3	0	7
Ox Head and Tongue ... ..	3	1	23
Pigs' Head . ... ..	0	2	3
Cows' Udders . ... ..	5	3	9
Bovine Heart and Lungs ... ..	2	2	12
Offal .. ... ..	3	3	24
Sheep Heart and Lungs ... ..	2	0	12
Veal Loaf ... ..	0	3	0
Cheese . ... ..	0	0	10
Condensed Milk ... ..	169 tins.		
Tomatoes ... ..	65 tins.		

#### SECTION F.

#### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

Up to the 30th September, 1941, cases of infectious disease requiring isolation and treatment in hospital were removed either to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne or to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Ashington. On the 1st October 1941, the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which the Borough of Morpeth is a constituent, came into being and from that date cases of infectious or contagious disease requiring inpatient treatment were removed to one or other of the hospitals leased by the Board at Ashington, Bedlington or Morpeth.

During the three quarters of the year ending 30th September 1941, there were treated in the Hospital for Infectious Diseases on the Common, Morpeth, six cases of scabies - 2 adults and 4 children - all from the one family.

#### Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in the area during 1941.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	2	1	-
Diphtheria	3	3	1
Pneumonia	8	Unknown.	4



Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-
Typhoid Fever	2	2	-
Paratyphoid Fever	2	2	-
Measles	5	-	-
Whooping Cough.	17	-	-

Table Showing Analysis of notified Cases of Infectious Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Und 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over	Total.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	3
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	1	8
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	5
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Measles	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Whooping Cough	1	2	-	2	4	5	2	-	1	-	-	-	17

Diphtheria: One of the cases of diphtheria occurred in an inmate of a public institution and she was removed to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle under a private arrangement between the Mental and I.D. Hospital, which did not involve the Borough of Morpeth in any expense.

Two children suffering from diphtheria were admitted to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Ashington, one of them at a later date being removed to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases for the removal of tonsils for the persistent carrier state of virulent diphtheria organisms.

Unfortunately this young life was lost during the administering of an anaesthetic.

Another case, that of an adult, was found to be harbouring the organism temporarily, although not actually suffering from clinical diphtheria. She too, was removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Ashington and speedily cleared of the carrier state and was discharged.

Diphtheria Immunisation. From May 1936 it is recorded that immunisation against diphtheria by the one shot method could be had by the public free of charge, but to what extent this offer of the Corporation had been taken advantage of by parents, is not known to me. At any rate the one shot method fell into dis-favour and the arrival of Ministry of Health circular 2230, which reached the Health Department in mid December 1940, gave a renewed impetus to secure protection against diphtheria among children.



The circular also recommended that the Local Authorities should consult with the local education authority or Welfare Authority as to the best means for persuading parents and guardians to have their children immunised. At the same time it was advised that the work of immunisation could be most expeditiously and conveniently carried out at selected places where children can be assembled and the education authority of the Northumberland County Council placed most generously the school premises at the disposal of your Medical Officers to carry out the immunisation during school hours.

Further so far as Morpeth Borough was concerned where the estimated school population was, during 1941, approximately 1,533, your Medical Officers, Dr. McGregor and myself, assisted by the Senior Assistant School Medical Officer and Assistant School Medical Officer and school nurses of the N.C.C. carried out the entire immunisation campaign so far as the Borough of Morpeth was concerned, that is to say during the first phase of the campaign in 1941.

Thus the campaign commenced on the 27th January and the first sweep was completed in the elementary and secondary schools by the 12th March. Subsequent visits were paid towards the end of March and during April to various schools, and special visits were paid to the First Aid Post, The Willows, in order to pick up stragglers and treat late acceptors.

Even a third sweep over the same groups of schools was carried out during the last two months of the year.

Theoretically only two visits, corresponding to the number of injections should be necessary to each school, but for various reasons this number was extended to third and fourth visits to many of the schools in order to give first and second inoculations to those scholars who were absent at the time of the medical officers' original visits.

There were various influences which acted adversely on the campaign and increased the amount of work for the medical officers and nurses, and these might be enumerated as follows:- (1) the severe weather of the early part of 1941 when the campaign was launched, (2) absenteeism especially amongst the children in the infant departments from (a) measles, (b) chickenpox, (c) whooping cough and (d) respiratory and other affections, and (3) the interposition of school holidays.

The most up-to-date method recently advocated by the Ministry of Health, that is October 1942, urges immunisation for every child about the age of one year old to be followed at the time of its entry to school by a further single reinforcing dose of reagent which would maintain its immunity throughout the greater portion of its school life.

During 1941 the following are the numbers of children who were completely protected by the prescribed course with the reagent supplied by the Ministry of Health (Alum Precipitated Toxoid). The Borough is not a Welfare Authority and the number relating to



children under five years of age are supplied by the courtesy of the N.C.C.

Under five years -	84	-	11.2%
5 - 15 years -	1,216	-	77.3%

Posterior Schick testing is not practised.

### Enteric Fevers.

About November of this year the Ministry of Health separated typhoid from the paratyphoid fevers, hence in future each infection will be described separately.

### Typhoid Fever - Two cases.

One occurred in an inmate of a mental hospital and was successfully treated therein.

The second case was that of a nurse employed at another mental hospital in the vicinity of Morpeth. It so happened that this institution had been subject at the time to a severe outbreak of typhoid fever amongst the inmates, and this young woman, who had not been protected against typhoid and paratyphoid fever, became infected, it is assumed, in the hospital.

The reason of her presence in Morpeth was that she was in lodgings in a certain part of the town. She was removed to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Walkergate and recovered.

Paratyphoid B. Fever. - There were two cases of Paratyphoid B. fever reported (husband and wife). Both occurred in the third quarter of the year. The source or sources of origin of these two cases were never discovered, but be it noted that there had occurred about the same time a couple of cases in the Rural District.

At least one of the Borough cases was especially fond of cakes stuffed with artificial cream, and to this extent bore a striking similarity to the partiality manifested by the Rural cases.

I felt that in all likelihood, though it could not be demonstrated absolutely, that there existed some subtle connection betwixt their infection and artificial cream.

Artificial cream at this time had been shown to be an excellent medium for the growth of all kinds of organisms, including those which spread such diseases as typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, dysentery, food poisoning and intestinal parasitism.

An important circular of the Ministry of Health 2198, of the 25th October 1940, consolidated the measures to be observed by those engaged in food handling, and emphasised (a) the provisions of the Milk & Dairies Order 1926, (b) The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1927, and (c) The Food & Drugs Act, 1938, section 13 (i).



This particular section 13, amongst other things, dealt with the provision in, or within reasonable distance of, the room suitable washing basins and a sufficient supply of soap, clean towels and clean water, both hot and cold, for the use of persons employed in the room, that is any room in which food is prepared and intended for human consumption.

Hence all persons engaged in the preparation or handling of food intended for sale are required by law to observe cleanliness and habitually to take all elementary precautions.

Scabies - It was well enough known that there was at least a prevalence of scabies in certain parts of the district, and so soon as the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital came into operation the Medical Officer had at his disposal a greater number of beds available at one or other of the units for the in-patient treatment of any infectious or contagious disease, including the severer types of scabies, these for the most part with secondary septic conditions super added, as and when required.

During the last quarter of 1941 it was not found necessary to send any case of scabies for in-patient treatment to the Bedlington unit of the S.E.N.J.H.B., the one selected to deal with this type of infestation.

Notification of scabies, however, is not obligatory, and the Scabies Order - an Order in Council - was a Regulation added to the Defence General Regulations 1939, as No. 33A, and through it, it was anticipated that by the beginning of the year ascertainment of scabies through the School Medical Service and local medical practitioners was likely to occur, and arrangements were made accordingly to deal with the sufferers at the beginning of the new year.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
15-	1	1	1	2	1	-	-	1
25-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
45-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>								
	4	5	3	5	4	-	-	1
<hr/>								



There were no non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis.  
Total deaths from Tuberculosis - 5.

Of the 17 new cases of Tuberculosis reported, four were notified from public institutions, the disease occurring in persons whose ordinary place of residence was outwith the Borough.

# CANCER MORTALITY.

	<u>Males.</u>							<u>Females.</u>						
	20	30	40	45	55	65	Total.	20	30	40	45	55	65	Total.
Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3
Stomach	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Liver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Gall bladder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Colon	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rectum	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lung	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	1	-	-	2	4	7	-	1	-	-	2	6	9



Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1941. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 C.Bs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Live Births	14.2 †	14.7	16.4	8.9
Still "	0.51 †	0.58	0.60	0.33
Deaths:-				
All Causes	12.9 †	14.9	13.0	16.0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.03
Influenza	0.19	0.17	0.20	0.15
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-				
Deaths under 1 Year of age.	59	71	56	68
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 Years of age	5.1	7.5	4.6	6.8
* A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths				
† These rates are those published in the Quarterly Return.				
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Notifications:-				
Typhoid fever	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04
Paratyphoid fever	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.05
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.25	0.31	0.20	0.30
Scarlet Fever	1.47	1.49	1.51	1.01
Whooping Cough	4.39	4.37	4.50	3.50
Diphtheria	1.25	1.53	1.19	0.93
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.27	0.50
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Measles	10.33	8.27	10.47	4.77
Pneumonia	1.25	1.53	1.04	1.07
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-				
Maternal Mortality:- (Excluding Abortion)				
Puerperal Infection (No.147)	0.48	- NOT AVAILABLE -		
Others	1.75			
Total	2.23			
Notifications:-				
Puerperal Fever	11.91	15.64	9.43	( 2.29
" Pyrexia				( 19.33 #
# Including puerperal fever				
17.				











