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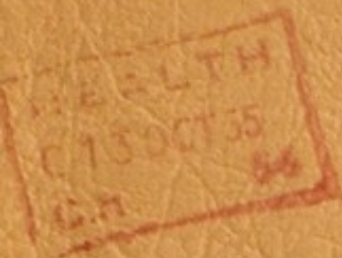
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**BOROUGH OF MORPETH**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

*of the*

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR 1954**



# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1954

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

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present, to you, my report for the year 1954.

With the exception of the birth rate, which has increased and is higher than the national rate, and the still birth rate which is lower than the corresponding rate for the country as a whole, the vital statistics are less satisfactory than they were in 1953. The death rate which has risen from 15.33 to 17.4 per 1,000 of the population, is considerably higher than the national rate of 11.3. It may be noted, however, that, out of the total of 193 deaths, 73, or 37.8% occurred among residents in institutions within the Borough.

The infantile mortality rate of 38.1 per 1,000 live births is high but the total number of deaths was only 8 and of these 6 occurred under the age of one week.

Notifications of infectious disease continued to be few in number except for Measles, of which 118 cases were notified, and Sonne Dysentery which appears to be increasingly prevalent in many parts of the country and is extremely difficult to control. Fortunately it is seldom a severe illness but it can cause quite a considerable loss of working time when it spreads through a community.

Notifications of, and deaths from, tuberculosis were the same as in the previous year.

The housing problem remains acute and is likely to continue so for a considerable number of years. Morpeth being an old town with many houses built in yards where there is much congestion and no room for the provision of amenities and adequate space, according to modern standards, is faced with a slum clearance programme which is large, in relation to the size of the Borough. In addition, provision must be made for housing families living at the Common Camp. Good progress has been made with clearing away the worst huts and transferring remaining families to better accommodation but even so, some 100 families were still living in the camp at the end of the year. It is to be hoped that the Council will be able to fulfil its intention of clearing the site completely within the next two years or so, for the huts, although they have served a useful purpose, cannot be regarded as suitable dwelling places.

During the year, a report was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, in support of the Council's application for permission to extend the sewage works. The limited capacity of the existing works and the continuing increase in the number of new houses, makes this extension an urgent necessity. The new project is a costly one but absolutely essential and it is to be hoped that Ministry approval will not be long delayed.

In conclusion, I wish to thank members of the Council for the consideration they have shown me and to express my appreciation of the help I have received from the officials of all departments.


I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

**C. B. McGREGOR,**

Medical Officer of Health  
Borough of Morpeth.



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**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR  
THE YEAR 1954**

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**OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

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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.
Chief Sanitary Inspector .....	FRANK K. PERKINS, M.I.M. & C.E., M.R.S.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector (Meat) .....	J. G. SIMPSON, M.S.I.A.
Offices of the M.O.H. ....	146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone .....	Ashington 2287.
Offices of the Sanitary Inspector .....	36, Bridge Street, Morpeth.
Telephone .....	Morpeth 36.

## SECTION A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Morpeth is an ancient market town situated on the Great North Road about 14 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne.

It serves as a shopping centre for a large surrounding country district and, as such, has a high proportion of shops in relation to its population.

The old houses in the town were built in narrow congested yards no longer considered suitable for habitation and this means that the Council is faced with a considerable slum clearance programme.

Coal-mining, agriculture, market gardening, the distributive trades and public administration provide employment for many of the population and the town also has an iron foundry, two aerated waters factories and several motor engineering establishments.

During the summer months many visitors are attracted to the town where the Carlisle Park with its beautiful display of flowers is much admired and the large open space beside the river provides ample opportunities for outdoor sports and recreation.

Area in Acres .....	2,213
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1954 .....	10,650
Rateable Value .....	£67,831
One Penny Rate produces .....	£268.0s.6d.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) .....	3,075

### VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	200	104	96
Illegitimate .....	10	5	5
	210	109	101

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .....	19.72
Standard Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 0.96) .....	18.93

Still Births :	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	8	5	3
Illegitimate .....	1	1	—
	9	6	3

Still Birth Rate :	
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births .....	14.10
Rate per 1,000 total population .....	0.85

DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female
	193	99	94

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population .....	18.12
Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.96) .....	17.40

Death from Puerperal Causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :		
	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
No. 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :	
All Infants per 1,000 live Births .....	38.10
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live Births .....	40.00
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live Births .....	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	26
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	Nil

The Registrar-General supplies the following :

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1954.

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory .....	2	2
2. Tuberculosis (other forms) .....	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease .....	1	1
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach .....	1	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	4	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast .....	—	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus .....	—	2
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .....	9	7
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	—	—
16. Diabetes .....	—	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	12	13
18. Coronary Disease, Angina .....	12	4
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	3	2
20. Other Heart Disease .....	21	29
21. Other Circulatory Disease .....	3	2
22. Influenza .....	—	—
23. Pneumonia .....	3	3
24. Bronchitis .....	5	—
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	1	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations .....	1	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .....	13	16
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	2	—
34. All other Accidents .....	4	7
35. Suicide .....	2	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War .....	—	—
	<hr/> 99	<hr/> 94

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :

	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	6	2
Illegitimate .....	—	—
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 2

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1954

Diseases	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 mths	4 - 6 mths	7 - 9 mths	10 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity .....	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Birth Injury .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Haemorrhagic Disease of the Newborn .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Megacolon .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 1	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 8



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

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years .....	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Deaths under 1 year .....	7	8	8	3	6	9	10	7	5	7	3	8
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Live Births .....	52.63	46.24	58.98	16.39	29.70	43.60	54.35	34.48	23.81	33.49	15.79	38.10

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service in the Laboratory at the Newcastle General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below :

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Chest Physician .....	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis .....	12	49
General Practitioners .....	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis .....	—	12
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	Faeces for B. Tuberculosis .....	—	1
General Practitioners .....	Fluid from Pleural Cavity for Pathogenic Organisms .....	1	—
General Practitioners .....	Swabs for Vincent's Angina .....	—	7
General Practitioners .....	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci .....	5	10
General Practitioners .....	Swabs for C. Diphtheriae .....	—	13
General Practitioners .....	Swabs for Staph. Aureus .....	6	—
General Practitioner .....	Swab for Bacillus Proteus .....	1	—
General Practitioners .....	Swabs for Monilia .....	2	—
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms .....	2	—
General Practitioner .....	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms .....	1	—
Medical Officer of Health .....	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms .....	34	47
Medical Officer of Health .....	Tinned Cream for Pathogenic Organisms .....	—	1
Medical Officer of Health .....	Blood for Influenza Complement Fixation Test .....	1	1
General Practitioner .....	Blood for Influenza Complement Fixation Test .....	—	1
General Practitioners .....	Blood for Agglutination Test .....	—	2

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Three ambulances, a car and five drivers are stationed in Morpeth and serve the Borough, Pegswood and the western part of the Morpeth Rural District, and part of Castle Ward Rural District.

## NURSING IN THE HOME

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Northumberland County Council is the authority solely and directly responsible for Home Nursing Services.

Three nurses are stationed in Morpeth. Their work includes both general nursing and mid-wifery, and they serve the Borough and adjacent parts of Morpeth Rural District.

## CHILD WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS

The Northumberland County Council is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the Borough and clinics are held as follows :

Infant Welfare Clinic, Gashouse Lane .....	every Monday 9.30—12 noon ; 1.30—4 p.m.
Antenatal Clinic, Gashouse Lane .....	alternate Thursdays; 9.30—12 noon; 1.30—4 p.m. alternate Thursdays; 1.30—4 p.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic, Gashouse Lane .....	every Friday 9.30—12 noon ; 1.30—4 p.m.
Sunlight Clinic, Gashouse Lane .....	every Tuesday and Friday 10—11 a.m.
Speech Therapy, Gashouse Lane .....	every Thursday 1.30—4 p.m.
Eye Clinic .....	every third Tuesday in month 9.30—12 noon ; 1.30—4 p.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation, Gashouse Lane .....	first Friday in month 1.30—4 p.m.
Child Welfare Centre, Common Camp .....	alternate Fridays 1.30—4 p.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic, Common Camp .....	every Friday at 9.30 a.m.

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## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER

Morpeth is supplied partly with water obtained from the Council's borehole and partly with water bought from Tynemouth Corporation. In both cases the water is chlorinated.

The supply has been adequate, the pressure sufficient and the quality satisfactory.

The average daily consumption from the Borough undertaking was approximately 178,083 gallons and from the Tynemouth water supply approximately 137,215 gallons.

The total daily consumption was 315,298 gallons.

All the water mains were periodically flushed and necessary repairs received prompt attention.

The extension of the Council's housing estate at Spelvit Lane involved the addition of new lengths of water main, as follows :

Housing Scheme No. 5. :	667 yards of 6" diameter main 666 yards of 4" diameter main
Housing Scheme No. 6. :	137 yards of 4" diameter main

## WATER SAMPLES

During the year, 23 samples were taken at different points in the Borough and submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results :

Sample No.	Date obtained	Place of Collection	Probable No. of Aerogenes Organisms per 100 ml. of water
1.	28. 1.54.	McGill's Yard	Nil
2.	28. 1.54.	Goose Hill	Nil
3.	28. 1.54.	Grey's Yard	Nil
4.	25. 2.54.	Newminster Terrace	Nil
5.	25. 2.54.	Chapel Place	Nil
6.	25. 2.54.	Dogger Bank	Nil
7.	25. 2.54.	Girls' High School	Nil
8.	5. 5.54.	Salisbury Street	Nil
9.	5. 5.54.	Gladstone Street	Nil
10.	5. 5.54.	Choppington Road	Nil
11.	5. 5.54.	Shields Road	Nil
12.	20. 9.54.	Salisbury Street	Nil
13.	20. 9.54.	Gladstone Street	Nil
14.	20. 9.54.	Loansdean	Nil
15.	20. 9.54.	St. Mary's Field	Nil
16.	9.11.54.	McGill's Yard	5
17.	9.11.54.	Thorpe Avenue	Nil
18.	9.11.54.	Middle Greens	11
19.	15.11.54.	McGill's Yard	Nil
20.	15.11.54.	Middle Greens	Nil
21.	15.11.54.	Girls' High School	1
22.	15.11.54.	Girls' High School	1
23.	23.11.54.	Common	Nil

One sample of water was submitted for chemical analysis and the following is a copy of the Public Analyst's report :

### CHEMICAL RESULTS :

	Parts per Million
Total Solids dried at 180° C.	233.0
Chlorine as Chlorides	17.8
Free Ammonia	None
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.04
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.20
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 80° F.)	4.4
Total Hardness	125
Permanent Hardness	Nil
Temporary Hardness	125
Lead and Copper	Nil
Iron	0.2
Appearance and Colour (Hazen Degrees 70)	Pale orange yellow and clear
Smell and Taste	Satisfactory
Microscopical examination of deposit	Satisfactory
P. H. Value	6.8

### REPORT.

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity, and it contains no deposit for microscopical examination.

The water is of a deep colour, but clear and in my opinion it is suitable for drinking and domestic use.

**SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT — Year ending 31st December, 1954.**

	No. of Inspections during year	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws.	No. of Informal Notices Served.	Defects remedied by Informal Action.	No. of Statutory Notices Served.	Defects remedied by Statutory Action.	Legal Proceedings.
<b>HOUSING</b>							
Structural Defects .....	599	32	32	30	(2 outstanding at end of 1954)		
Defective Food Store .....	2	2	2	2			
Dampness .....	12	12	12	10			
Overcrowding .....	148	—	—	—	(on Council Housing List awaiting rehousing)		
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>							
Insufficient .....	2	2	2	2	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory .....	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
<b>DRAINAGE</b>							
Insufficient .....	12	10	—	10	—	—	—
Defective .....	44	34	4	34	—	—	—
<b>SANITARY CONVENIENCES</b>							
Insufficient .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective .....	3	3	3	3	—	—	—
Food Premises .....	306	4	4	4	—	—	—
Dairies .....	32	1	1	1	—	—	—
Shops Acts .....	107	2	—	2	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses .....	601	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc. ....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces .....	66	4	—	4	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals .....	30	1	1	1	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Bins .....	12	17	17	17	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations .....	6	6	6	6	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b> .....	1984	131	84	127	—	—	—

The following table gives a summary of the work affected :

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
<b>Sanitary Conveniences</b>			
Privy and Privy Ashpits abolished .....	—	—	—
Privies and Privy Ashpits repaired .....	—	—	—
Pail Closets abolished .....	—	—	—
Water Closets provided .....	—	—	—
No. of above for which Grant was given under P.H.A. 1936 S. 47) .....	—	—	—
Sanitary Bins provided .....	—	—	—
Sanitary Bins renewed .....	17	—	17
<b>Drainage</b>			
New Drains constructed .....	3	—	3
Drains repaired or reconstructed .....	22	—	22
Additional Gullies provided .....	6	—	6
Old Gullies replaced .....	4	—	4
Scullery Sinks provided .....	—	—	—
Scullery Waste Pipes repaired .....	7	—	7
Scullery Waste Pipes trapped .....	2	—	2
Yards repaired and reconstructed .....	9	—	9

## WATER SUPPLY

Sources closed or discontinued ..... Nil.      Number of houses ..... Nil.

## NEW SERVICE PROVIDED

(a) By Local Authority	..... 35	Number of Houses	..... 35
(b) By Private Owners	..... 3	Number of Houses	..... 3
Number of Dwellings supplied by	.....	(a) Internal Tap	..... 3012
		(b) Standpipe	..... 63

## COMPLAINTS

Three hundred and sixty four complaints were recorded during the year, all of which were dealt with : the following list shows details of structural works effected other than those given in the preceding table :

Chimney Stacks repaired	..... 2	Ranges repaired	..... 4
Ceilings repaired	..... 2	Skirting Boards renewed	..... 1
Ceilings renewed	..... 1	Ventilation improved	..... 1
Floors relaid	..... 2	Windows repaired	..... 3
Floors repaired	..... 1	Water Closets repaired	..... 3
Rainwater Pipes repaired	..... 1	Wallplastering repaired	..... 3
Roofs repaired	..... 6		

Other visits and inspections of the District under the Public Health Act 1936 totalling 367 were as follows :

Disinfections carried out	..... 36	Refuse Disposal Grounds	..... 57
Fairgrounds	..... 1	Sewage Disposal Grounds	..... 32
Infectious Diseases	..... 2	Schools	..... 2
Licensed Premises	..... 10	Temporary Housing Sites	..... 10
Markets	..... 25	Watercourses	..... 15
Places of Public Entertainment	..... 4	Yards, Courts and Passages	..... 27
Public Conveniences	..... 146		

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

Only one case of excessive smoke emission from industrial premises was detected during the year. This was dealt with informally. Morpeth is comparatively free from smoke nuisance but the complete abolition of this nuisance will be achieved only when smokeless fuel or electricity is used both in industry and in the home.

## VERMINOUS PREMISES

The detection and destruction of vermin again received special attention. Infestations were dealt with by liquid and powder insecticides and by high temperature naked flame.

Each infestation received two treatments followed by visits of inspection to make sure that complete clearance had been obtained.

The following table shows the work done during the year :

Species	Council Houses	Private Houses	Business Premises	Total
Bed Bugs	..... 2	..... —	..... —	..... 2
Cockroaches	..... 9	..... 1	..... 1	..... 11
Earwigs	..... 1	..... —	..... —	..... 1
Flies	..... —	..... 1	..... —	..... 1
Fleas	..... 1	..... —	..... 1	..... 2
Lice	..... —	..... —	..... 1	..... 1
Steamfly	..... —	..... —	..... 1	..... 1
Woodworm	..... 3	..... 2	..... 2	..... 7
Totals	..... 16	..... 4	..... 6	..... 26

## PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Three traders are licensed under this Act, two of them being from outside the Borough. Twenty-one inspections were carried out during the year but no contraventions of the regulations were found.

## RAG FLOCK ACT 1951

One building is registered in the Borough, for the storage of Rag Flock. Three inspections of the premises were made. No contraventions of the Act were found.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

### DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE

Work under this Act has been fully maintained in accordance with the approved methods and requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Details of the work done are set out in the following table :

	Local Authority Property	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricultural Properties	Totals
Inspections made .....	86	1080	621	21	1808
Treatments by Local Authority .....	9	60	15	—	84
Treatments by Private Persons .....	—	—	4	—	4
Treatments by Area Agricultural Executive Committee .....	—	—	—	1	1
Notices Served .....	—	1	2	—	3

### DESTRUCTION OF MOLES

To deal with the occasional infestation by moles the Council retains a specialist mole catcher. On occasions during the year his services have been required to deal with outbreaks at the Castle Cottage and Woods, also the Gill and Sports Stadium.

### DESPATCH OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS

During the year 15 domestic pets have been disposed of by this department, including 9 dogs at the request of the Police Authorities and 6 cats at the request of their owners. The method employed is by asphyxiation with an approved dosage of Chloroform in an R.S.P.C.A. Chamber.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewage disposal plant was first installed in 1903 and has not been very materially altered since then. A small addition to its capacity was made in 1931 but the growth of the town and the installation of modern amenities in many old houses have led to a great increase in the amount of sewage which has to be treated. The plant is constantly working to full capacity and is at all times overloaded. This has caused the effluent from the works to be unsatisfactory and has brought repeated complaints from the Northumberland and Tees-side River Board. In 1954, a scheme for extending and improving the works at an estimated cost of £95,000 was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The Ministry's decision is still awaited.

The works have been well maintained and by careful and constant attention have been kept functioning as efficiently as possible in the circumstances.

The ever present possibility of a breakdown makes the provision of additional capacity a matter of some urgency and it is to be hoped that the Ministry's approval will not be long delayed.

During the year the following new lengths of sewer were added to the system :

Spelvet Lane Housing Estate (Corporation) :

Scheme No. 5	233 yards	6" diameter.	Soil Sewers.
	17 yards	12" diameter.	Surface Water Sewer.
	321 yards	9" diameter.	Surface Water Sewer.
	196 yards	6" diameter.	Surface Water Sewer.
Scheme No. 6.	330 yards	6" diameter.	Soil Sewers.
	445 yards	6" diameter.	Surface Water Sewer.
Shops and Flats.	107 yards	4" diameter.	Soil Sewers.
	182 yards	4" diameter.	Surface Water Sewer.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

This is done by direct labour. Refuse is collected daily and is deposited at Deuchar Park where the work of filling in made good progress. Occasional fires were promptly dealt with, surface dressing of the tip received constant attention and every effort was made to keep the site as clean and free from nuisance as possible, in view of its position so near to the main road and the town.

Street cleansing received all possible attention and was assisted by the fact that the very bad summer gave little inducement to holidaymakers to visit the town or to picnic or eat in the open air. There was, in consequence, much less litter to be collected.

The vehicles used for refuse collection are :

1. Bantam Karrier (7 cubic yards capacity).
2. Karrier C K (9/10 cubic yards capacity).
3. One horse and cart.
4. One tank cart.

## **RIVERS AND STREAMS**

It is regrettable that many people still deposit unwanted household goods and other articles in the river, thus disfiguring some of the most attractive spots in the town.

The river was inspected regularly and was scavenged when necessary ; a considerable amount of refuse and discarded domestic articles being removed.

## **CAMPING SITES**

There are no camping sites within the Borough.

## **SWIMMING BATHS**

There are no swimming baths within the Borough.

## **SCHOOLS**

There are 5 Primary schools, one Secondary Modern school, two Grammar Schools and one Commercial College. All have main drainage and sewerage.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

There are in the Borough 8 factories without mechanical power and 46 with mechanical power.

The following table gives details of the inspections made and results thereof during 1954.

### 1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	8	26	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	46	35	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .....	1	5	—	—
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>55</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

### 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		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness .....	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature .....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .....	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient .....	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>



## SECTION D

### HOUSING

#### TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1954

The following is a tabular statement for the year 1954 :

Houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority .....	35	—	35
(b) By any other Housing Authority .....	—	—	—
(c) By Private Persons .....	—	3	3

### 1. CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES

#### A. Formal Action.

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of houses demolished during 1954 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action ..... | Nil  |
| (Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas .....               | Nil) |
| (2) Number of houses <b>closed</b> but not demolished as a result of formal action .....                  | Nil  |

#### B. Informal Action.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above ..... | 4 |
|--|---|

### 2. RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR

Number of houses made fit during 1954 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) As a result of informal action .....            | 126 |
| (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ..... | Nil |
| (c) By Local Authority in default of owners .....   | Nil |

### 3. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS : HOUSING ACT, 1949

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| (a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year .....           | 10 |
| (b) Applications rejected by Local Authority .....                        | 1  |
| (c) Applications forwarded to Ministry .....                              | —  |
| (d) Applications rejected by Ministry .....                               | —  |
| (e) Applications approved .....   | 9  |
| (f) Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme ..... | 77 |

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### MILK SUPPLY

There are five registered dairy premises and seven licensed distributors of milk.

Four licenses to retail Tuberculin tested milk, six to retail Pasteurised milk and one to retail Sterilized milk were issued. One distributor with dairy premises outside the Borough was granted a supplementary licence.

All dairy premises were inspected regularly and were found generally satisfactory. Advice and instruction were given when necessary.

#### MILK SAMPLES

Seventeen samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination for cleanliness. The results are set out in the following table :

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Taken	Test Applied	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested	10	Methylene Blue Reductase	9	1
Pasteurised	6	Methylene Blue Reductase	6	0
Ungraded	1	Phosphatase	1	0
		Methylene Blue Reductase	1	0
		Totals .....	16	1

#### MEAT INSPECTION

On 29th June 1954, the Ministry of Food ceased to be responsible for the slaughter of animals for meat and slaughtering by private butchers re-commenced on 2nd July 1954.

The Council resumed control of the Borough Slaughterhouse and the butchers in the town were, at their own request, granted tenancies of the individual slaughterhouses used prior to 1939.

Considerable alteration, repair and improvement had to be undertaken and new equipment installed to enable the butchers to produce their own meat but by consultation and co-operation between the Council's Slaughterhouses Committee and the tradesmen concerned and the Sanitary Inspectors the change over was effected smoothly and satisfactorily.

All meat was inspected and the following table gives details of the number of animals dealt with during the year.

Month	Cattle		Sheep		Pigs		Calves		Totals Monthly
	M. of F.	Private	M. of F.	Private	M. of F.	Private	M. of F.	Private	
January .....	67		385		137		15		604
February .....	81		398		195		9		683
March .....	118		574		247		14		953
April .....	92		317		213		7		629
May .....	107		234		376		7		724
June .....	88		461		282		3		834
July .....	15	120	5	325	1	45	5	4	520
August .....		130		559		38		5	732
September .....		192		890		93		—	1175
October .....		143		666		110		6	925
November .....		161		453		195		5	814
December .....		86		206		213		3	508
Yearly Totals.....	568	832	2374	3099	1451	694	60	23	9101

The yearly total of animals dealt with therefore was 9,101. This shows an increase of 857 over the total of 8,244 for the year 1953 and an increase of 1,177 over the total of 7,924 for the year 1952. The following table shows the variations among the animals dealt with in 1953 and 1954.

Year	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Totals
1954 .....	1400	5473	2145	83	9101
1953 .....	1412	5028	1538	266	8244
	-12	+445	+607	-183	+857

The number of Casualty and Emergency Slaughter cases handled during the year was as follows :

Month	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Monthly Totals
January .....	17	46	16	15	94
February .....	15	56	11	8	90
March .....	18	107	12	14	151
April .....	18	26	12	7	63
May .....	20	16	10	7	53
June .....	17	35	27	3	82
July .....	9	6	3	5	23
August .....	1	—	—	1	2
September .....	2	4	1	—	7
October .....	1	8	1	—	10
November .....	—	3	—	1	4
December .....	1	4	—	1	6
Yearly Totals .....	119	311	93	62	585

The percentage of Casualty and Emergency Slaughter animals of the total kill was therefore : 6.42% approx.

One case arose requiring special laboratory examination, which was kindly carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle upon Tyne.

The weight of meat, organs and offals condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to :

15 tons. 5 cwts. 1 qrt. 0 st. 9 lbs.

## CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Slaughtered .....	1257	118	83	5473	2145
Number Inspected .....	1257	118	83	5473	2145

### All Diseases except Tuberculosis

Whole Carcasses condemned .....	8	6	1	35	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	420	15	6	402	243
Percentage of the Number Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis .....	34% Approx	17.8% Approx	8.4% Approx	8% Approx	11.42% Approx

### Tuberculosis Only

Whole Carcasses condemned .....	—	7	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	59	13	—	—	63
Percentage of the Number Inspected affected with Tuberculosis .....	4.77% Approx	17% Approx	—	—	3% Approx

## FOOD PREMISES

In the Borough there are 127 food premises on the Shops Register and the types of business are shown in the following table :

Type of Business	No.
Butchers	11
Bakeries	4
Confectioners	15
Chemists	3
Cafes Restaurants and Snack Bars	14
Cooked Meats	2
Dairies	5
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	9
Fishmongers	3
Fish Fryers	4
Frozen Foods, Poultry	1
Grocers	39
Hotels and Licensed Premises	12
Mineral Water Works	2
Wines and Spirits (Off Licence)	3

Of the above the undermentioned are the types of Food Premises Registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Viz :

Type of Business	No.
Butchers Shops	11
Cooked Preserved Meats, etc.	2
Fried Fish Shops	4
Ice Cream	29
Iced Lollies Manufacturers	3

During the year, all food premises were visited and inspected under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and Clean Food Bye laws of the Borough. In a very few cases was it found necessary to take steps to enforce a higher standard of hygiene and by repeated visits and advice the necessary improvement was achieved. The factor which causes great concern is the tendency for the amount of business to outstrip the accommodation of the premises causing congestion at peak periods. This factor however is not governed by any legislation and providing there is no infringement of the law relating to cleanliness and kindred matters, little action can be taken. Many food shops in the Borough have installed refrigeration plant which is indicative of their sense of duty to serve the Public with fresh food and with external contamination reduced to a minimum.

## FOOD INSPECTIONS

During the year, the following foodstuffs were examined and surrendered for destruction :

Commodity	Quantity	Reason for Condemnation	Weight lbs. ozs.
Tinned Fruits	174 tins	Blown and Damaged tins	170 11
Tinned Meats	71 tins	Blown and Damaged tins	392 2
Tinned Milk	59 tins	Decomposition	54 12
Tinned Vegetables	51 tins	Blown Tins	67 10½
	<u>355 tins</u>	Total Weight	<u>685 3½</u>

**Other Foodstuffs were :**

Commodity	Weight	
	lbs.	ozs
Bacon .....	20	0
Beverages .....	0	4
Eggs .....	32	0
Fish .....	236	5½
Sausage .....	110	0
<b>Total Weight</b> .....	<b>398</b>	<b>9½</b>

The grand total weight of food condemned during the year therefore was :

15 tons 15 cwts 1 qr. 4 lbs. 13 ozs.

**Inspection of Food Premises Under Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

Premises	Inspections	Premises	Inspections
Bakehouses .....	7	Grocers .....	68
Butchers .....	35	Hotels and Kitchens .....	31
Cafes and Restaurants .....	38	Ice Cream and Allied Trades .....	15
Cooked Foods .....	14	Licensed Premises .....	11
Confectioners .....	41	Markets .....	25
Fruiterers and Greengrocers .....	3	Mineral Water Factories .....	4
Fish Shops (wet and fried Fish) .....	14	<b>Total</b> .....	<b>306</b>

## SECTION F

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

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease was provided at Walkergate Hospital.

**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—24 years	25—34 years	35—44 years	45—54 years	55—64 years	65—74 years	75 years & over	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles ....	—	2	24	33	58	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	118	—	—
Pneumonia ....	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	—	—
Meningococcal Septicaemia ....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever ....	—	1	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Dysentery ....	—	2	5	3	10	—	2	3	1	—	1	—	—	27	1	—
Erysipelas ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	4	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—

#### MEASLES

There was an epidemic of this disease, 118 cases being notified. With one exception all were children under the age of 10 years. No deaths occurred.

#### DYSENTERY

An outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred during the early part of the summer. There were 27 cases notified but there can be no doubt that this does not, in fact, indicate the real incidence of the disease. Dysentery of the Sonne type is a benign illness in most cases and many of those infected have very slight symptoms or become symptomless carriers. It can, however, be serious in infants and frail old people.

Of the 27 notified cases, 20 were under the age of 10 years and the 10 school children affected were pupils at one of the infant schools in the town. School children were excluded from school until bacteriological examination indicated that they were free from infection. Adults were not kept from work once they were fit, unless they were employed in the food trade.

#### DIPHTHERIA

For the sixth successive year no case of Diphtheria occurred and for the eighth successive year no death from this cause was recorded.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year, 137 pre-school, and 21 school children completed a course of primary immunisation, while 41 pre-school and 394 school children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31.12.54. it was estimated that the immunity indexes for the different age groups were as follows :

Children under 1 year .....	10.59%
Children aged 1 - 4 years .....	78.29%
Children aged 5 - 14 years .....	74.93%

These figures are quite satisfactory and show a considerable improvement on the corresponding figures at the end of 1953.

## DEATHS FOR MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1954

Cancer	MALES						FEMALES							
	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75+	Total	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75+	Total
Brain	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tongue	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pharynx	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Larynx	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Oesophagus	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bronchus	—	—	2	1	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Mediastinum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Stomach	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pancreas	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colon	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Rectum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ovary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Prostate	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bladder	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Totals	1	1	5	2	4	1	14	—	1	—	3	5	3	12

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population—2.441.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus—0.469 per 1,000.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus in England and Wales—0.369.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of all other sites—1.972 per 1,000.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of all other sites in England and Wales—1.666 per 1,000.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1954.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 24 years	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 34 years	3	—	—	—	3	*1	—	—	—	1
35 - 44 years	1	—	—	1	2	†1	—	—	—	1
45 - 54 years	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
55 - 64 years	2	—	—	—	2	—	†1	—	—	1
65 - 74 years	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
75 years and over	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	3	—	1	12	2	2	—	—	4

\* Not Notified prior to death.

† Not Notified in the Borough prior to death.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis, per 1,000 of the population—0.375.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis, per 1,000 of the population in England and Wales





