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Borough of Morpeth

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1955

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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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 1955.

The birth rate remains at a fairly high level, being 18.41 per 1,000, compared with the national figure of 15.0 per 1,000 of the population in England and Wales. The still-birth rate is low, 9.66 per 1,000 as against the figure of 23.1 per 1,000 for the country as a whole.

The death rate is slightly lower than in the previous year but at 16.61 per 1,000 is still much higher than the national rate of 11.7. It may be noted however, that just over 50% of the total deaths occurred in an institution within the Borough. If the death rate for the remainder of the town is calculated it is found to be approximately 9.69 per 1,000 of the ordinary residents.

The total number of infant deaths was only four, of which 2 occurred under the age of one week. The infantile mortality rate is 19.51 per 1,000 live births and the corresponding figure for England and Wales is 24.9.

There was an increase in the number of new cases of, and deaths from, respiratory tuberculosis but the number of deaths from malignant neoplasms was 18, a decrease of 8 on the figure for 1954.

During the year the Council had to submit, to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, its proposals with regard to slum-clearance and began, in a small way, to implement these proposals by declaring Dacre Court and Dacre Square to be a Clearance Area. One objection was received and a Public Inquiry was held, after which the Minister confirmed the Council's decision and a Clearance Order was made.

A Public Inquiry was also held in connection with the Council's proposals for enlarging the Sewage disposal works. The Ministry's Inspector recommended alteration to reduce the cost and an amended scheme was prepared. Official approval was not received by the end of the year.

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


I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR,
M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,
Borough of Morpeth.



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**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE YEAR 1955**

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

Medical Officer of Health	C. 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 Medical Officer	146 Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone	Ashington 2287.
Offices of the Sanitary Inspector	36 Bridge Street, Morpeth.
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SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Morpeth has a population of 10,690 and an area of 2,213 acres. It is a pleasant town, situated on the Great North Road and the River Wansbeck about 14 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The surroundings are attractive and the beautiful Carlisle Park with its magnificent floral display and the large open spaces along the river side are visited by many holiday-makers in the summer months. Tennis-courts, putting and bowling green provided and maintained by the Council are available for the enjoyment of both residents and visitors.

As a centre for a wide agricultural area, Morpeth has a large proportion of shops in relation to its population and the distributive trades and public administration provide employment for considerable numbers. There is an old established iron foundry and agriculture, coal-mining, market gardening and motor engineering are other industries open to the residents.

The Council has built large numbers of houses since the war and the town is being further extended by a housing estate on its southern border, by private enterprise. The speed with which the houses in this estate are being bought and occupied suggests that many people consider Morpeth a pleasant place in which to live.

Area in Acres	2,213
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population mid-1955	10,690
Rateable Value	£68,119
One Penny rate produces	£272. 3. 7.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955)	3,172

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	198	87	111
Illegitimate	7	1	6
	205	88	117
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			19.18
Standard Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 0.96)			18.41
Still Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	2	—
Still Birth Rate:			
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births			9.66
Rate per 1,000 total population			0.187

DEATHS

	Total	Male	Female
	185	90	95
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			17.30
Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.96)			16.61
Death from Puerperal Causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births			Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:			
All Infants per 1,000 live births			19.51
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			15.15
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			142.86
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			18
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			Nil

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1955

Cause of Death	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 mths	4 - 6 mths	7 - 9 mths	10 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Birth Injury	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
	—	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	4

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

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Infantile Deaths under 1 year	3	6	9	10	7	5	7	3	8	4
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births	16.39	29.70	43.60	54.35	34.48	23.81	33.49	15.79	38.10	19.51

The Registrar-General supplies the following:

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1955.	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	5	2
2. Tuberculosis (other forms)	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	—
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	5
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	2	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	10
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	13	10
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	3
20. Other Heart Diseases	20	36
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	—	2
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	3	4
24. Bronchitis	3	—
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	2
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	1	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	10	11
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—
34. All other Accidents	2	3
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	90	95

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	1
Illegitimate	—	1
	2	2

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

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

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Chest Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	6	33
General Practitioners	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	—	11
General Practitioner	Fluid from Pleural Cavity for Pathogenic Organisms	—	1
General Practitioners	Urine for Pathogenic Organisms ...	3	1
General Practitioners	Swabs for C. Diphtheriae	—	10
General Practitioners	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci ...	5	8
General Practitioners	Swabs for Vincent's Angina	1	5
General Practitioners	Miscellaneous Specimens for Pathogenic Organisms	7	1
General Practitioners	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms ...	3	8
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms ...	7	11
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Food Poisoning Organisms	—	2
General Practitioners	Blood for Widal	—	2

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

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

Three ambulances, a car and six 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 midwifery, and they serve the Borough and adjacent parts of Morpeth Rural District.

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS AND CENTRES

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.
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.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

Morpeth is supplied partly with water obtained from the Council's borehole at Gubeon and Tranwell and partly with water bought from Tynemouth Corporation. The water is chlorinated.

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

The average daily consumption from the Borough undertaking was approximately 82,585 gallons, and the daily quantity from the Tynemouth supply approximately 247,415 gallons.

The total daily consumption was 330,000 gallons.

Water mains were periodically flushed and defects promptly remedied.

The private development of a site south of Loansdean for housing, involved an extension of the Council's water mains as follows:

817 yards of 4" diameter main.

562 yards of 3" diameter main.

Sampling of Water for Bacteriological Examination.

During the year, 28 samples of water were taken at different points in the Borough and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, with the following results:

No. of Sample	Date Obtained	Place of collection.	Result of Examination
			Probable No. of Aerogenes Organisms per 100 ml. water
1.	22.2.55	Pottery Bank	Nil
2.	22.2.55	McGill's Yard, Bridge Street	Nil
3.	22.2.55	Salisbury Street, Cutters Buildings	1
4.	22.2.55	Station Cottages	Nil
5.	3.5.55	Fulbeck	Nil
6.	3.5.55	Fulbeck	Nil
7.	3.5.55	Fulbeck	Nil
8.	3.5.55	Fulbeck	Nil
9.	5.5.55	Fulbeck	Nil
10.	5.5.55	Fulbeck	Nil
11.	5.5.55	Fulbeck	Nil
12.	5.5.55	Fulbeck	Nil
13.	5.5.55	Fulbeck	Nil
14.	5.5.55	Fulbeck	Nil
15.	5.5.55	Fulbeck	Nil
16.	5.5.55	Fulbeck	Nil
17.	12.5.55	East Lane End	3
18.	12.5.55	East Lane End	Nil
19.	12.5.55	East Lane End	1
20.	12.5.55	Peacock Gap	8
21.	19.5.55	Pottery Bank	4
22.	19.5.55	Dawson Place	1
23.	19.5.55	Girls' High School	Nil
24.	19.5.55	Girls' High School	Nil
25.	7.9.55	Corporation Yard, Bridge Street	Nil
26.	7.9.55	Doggar Bank	1
27.	7.9.55	Spelvit Lane	Nil
28.	7.9.55	St. Mary's Field	1

Sampling of Water for Chemical Analysis.

Two samples of water were submitted to the Public Analyst for Chemical Analysis on 19th May, 1955 and 29th November, 1955, respectively and the Analyst's reports thereon are as follows:

Chemical Results.	Parts per million.	
	Sample No. 1	Sample No. 2
Total solids dried at 180° C.	244	190
Chlorine as Chlorides	21.3	16
Free Ammonia	Trace	0.06
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.03	0.04
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.05	0.30
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 80° F.).....	3.2	2.4
Total Hardness	155	126
Permanent Hardness	20	1
Temporary Hardness	135	125
Lead and Copper	None	None
Iron	0.1	0.1
Appearance and colour (Hazen Degrees 20)	Pale Yellow and clear	Exceedingly Pale Yellow and clear
Smell and Taste	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Microscopical Examination of Deposit	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
P. H. Value	7.0	7.2

Report on Sample No. 1.

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

I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for drinking and domestic use.

(signed) W. Gordon Carey.

Report on Sample No. 2.

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity. It is practically colourless and it has been adequately filtered, it is also free from taste or odour.

I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for a public supply.

(signed) W. Gordon Carey,
Public Analyst.

	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.
HOUSING							
Structural Defects	601	37	12	39	(2 carried forward from 1954)		
Defective Food Store	—	—	—	—	"	"	"
Dampness	13	13	13	13	"	"	"
Overcrowding	3	2	1	2	"	"	"
WATER SUPPLY							
Insufficient	1	1	1	1	"	"	"
Unsatisfactory	—	—	—	—	"	"	"
DRAINAGE							
Insufficient	27	27	—	27	"	"	"
Defective	4	4	4	4	"	"	"
SANITARY CONVENIENCES							
Insufficient	4	4	—	4	"	"	"
Defective	12	12	3	12	"	"	"
Shops Acts	15	1	—	1	"	"	"
Food Premises	210	8	—	8	"	"	"
Dairies	50	—	—	—	"	"	"
Slaughterhouses	1121	—	—	—	"	"	"
Tents, Vans, etc.	—	—	—	—	"	"	"
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	"	"	"
Factories and Workplaces	47	—	—	—	"	"	"
Keeping of Animals	12	5	1	5	"	"	"
Insanitary Ashpits and Bins	78	78	7	78	"	"	"
Offensive Accumulations	6	6	1	6	"	"	"
Smoke Nuisances	2	2	1	2	"	"	"
TOTALS	2206	200	44	202	"	"	"

The following table gives a summary of the work effected:

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences.			
Privy and Privy Ashpits Abolished	2	—	2
Privy and Privy Ashpits Repaired	1	—	1
Pail Closets Abolished	—	—	—
Water Closets Provided	4	—	4
No. of above for which Grant was given under P.H.A. 1936. S.47.	—	—	—
Sanitary Bins Provided	—	—	—
Sanitary Bins Renewed	78	—	78
Drainage.			
New Drains constructed	27	—	27
Drains repaired and reconstructed	12	—	12
Additional Gullies provided	20	—	20
Old Gullies replaced	—	—	—
Scullery Sinks provided	3	—	3
Sink Waste Pipes repaired	10	—	10
Sink Waste Pipes trapped	2	—	2
Yards repaired or reconstructed	—	—	—

Water Supply.

Sources closed or discontinued—Nil.

Number of Houses—Nil.

New Service Provided.

(a) By Local Authority 79

Number of Houses 79.

(b) By Private Owners 22

Number of Houses 22.

Complaints.

Two hundred and forty five complaints were recorded during the year, all of which were dealt with, and the number of inspections arising from the complaints was 601. The following list shows details of structural work carried out under the heading "Housing" in a preceding table.

Ceilings renewed	1	Other visits and inspections of the District under the Public Health Act, 1936, were as follows:		
Ceilings repaired	3			
Chimney Stacks repaired	1			
Coal Stores repaired	1			
External Doors repaired	4			
External Walls repointed	2			
Internal Doors repaired	1			
Roofs repaired	10			
Rain Water Gutters repaired	3			
Rain Water Spouts repaired	2			
Sash Cords renewed	4			
Septic Tanks cleansed	3			
Wooden Floors repaired	1			
Window Fasteners renewed	1			
Water Pipes repaired	1			
Ventilation of Floors provided	1			
TOTAL	39		Disinfections carried out	23
			Infectious diseases investigated	2
			Public Sanitary Conveniences	121
		Yards, Courts and Passages	30	
		Watercourses	12	
		Sewage Disposal Works	42	
		Refuse Disposal Grounds	45	
		Places of Public Entertainment	4	
		Market	3	
		Licensed Premises	8	
		Pets Shops	12	
		Fairgrounds	4	
		Temporary Housing Sites	8	
		Motor Works	12	
TOTAL	39	TOTAL	326	

Smoke Abatement.

Two cases of excessive smoke emission were detected during the year and were successfully dealt with informally.

Verminous Premises.

The destruction of vermin received due attention during the year. Infestations of various kinds were dealt with by the application of approved insecticides and other methods.

The following table shows the work done under this heading, during the year:

Species.	Council Houses	Private Houses	Business Premises	Totals
Fleas	2	—	—	2
Cockroach	10	1	—	11
Woodworm	3	—	—	3
Bed Bug	1	—	—	1
House Fly	1	—	—	1
TOTAL	17	1	—	18

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Three premises are licensed under this Act, two of the traders being from outside the Borough. No contraventions of the Act were found during the year.

Rag Flock Act, 1951.

One building in the Borough is registered for the storage of Rag Flock. No contraventions of the Act were found during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Work under this Act has again been fully maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Details of the work done are shown in the following table:

	Local Auth. Property	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricultural Property	Total
Inspections made	56	1126	675	16	1873
Treatments by local authority	2	61	13	—	76
Treatments by private persons	—	1	2	—	3
Treatments by Area Agricultural Executive Committee	—	—	—	2	2
Notices served	1	2	4	18	25

Destruction of Moles.

Occasional outbreaks of Moles are dealt with by a specialist in Mole catching employed by the Council.

Infestations at the Tranwell reservoir, Castle Woods, Carlisle Park and the Sports Stadium received attention.

Despatch of Domestic Animals.

During the year 9 domestic pets have been disposed of by the department, some at the request of the owners and some at the request of the Police Authorities.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewage disposal works continued to function to the limits of their capacity and under great difficulty.

In August 1955, an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government held a Public Inquiry into the Council's proposals to extend and modernize the works at an estimated cost of £95,000. Subsequently the Minister suggested that some economies and reduction in the extent of the improvements might be effected and a modified scheme estimated to cost £68,000, was prepared and submitted to the Minister.

At the end of the year permission to commence work had not yet been received, but it is hoped that it will not be long delayed since the load on the disposal plant is constantly increasing as the result both of Council Housing schemes and of the extensive development of housing estates now being carried out by private enterprise. Further private development is probable on a considerable scale.

Private Developments South of Loansdean.

Soil Sewers:	410 yards 12" diameter.
	540 yards 9" diameter.
	70 yards 6" diameter.
Surface Water Sewers:	100 yards 18" diameter.
	90 yards 15" diameter.
	80 yards 12" diameter.
	220 yards 9" diameter.

Refuse Collection.

This is done by direct labour. Refuse is collected daily and is deposited at Deuchar Park, where the work of filling and levelling made good progress. The tip face is now considerably narrowed due to the contracting site contours and much more work has had to be undertaken in piping the Churchburn to keep pace with the tipping.

No serious nuisance arose from the tip during the year and every effort is made to keep it as clean as possible.

Rivers and Streams.

The Wansbeck, and other streams running through the Borough were regularly inspected during the year and cleansed when necessary. It is noticeable that not quite so much refuse has been collected from the Wansbeck during the year, which, it is hoped shows some increasing regard for this natural beauty spot.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites within the Borough.

Swimming Baths.

There are no swimming baths within the Borough.

Schools.

There are five Primary schools, one Secondary Modern school, two Grammar schools and one Commercial college, in the Borough. All have main drainage and sewerage, and main water supply.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

At the end of 1955 there were, in the Borough, 8 factories without mechanical power and 45 with mechanical power.

The following table gives details of the inspections made and results thereof during 1955. No cases arose necessitating official action.

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	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	45	35	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	53	47	—	—

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	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—

There are no outworkers registered in the Borough.

SECTION D

HOUSING

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1955

Houses completed during the year:

(a) By Local Authority	79
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	22

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION.

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

REPAIRS

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

1. By informal action	37
2. By owners, following statutory notice	—
3. By Local Authority in default of owners.....	—
4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	—

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, HOUSING ACT, 1949

	No. of Separate Houses
1. Applications submitted to local authority during year	9
2. Applications rejected	2
3. Applications approved	7
4. Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme	16

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

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

Four licences to retail Tuberculin Tested milk, six to retail pasteurised milk and five to retail sterilised milk were issued. One distributor with Dairy premises outside the Borough was granted a renewal of a supplementary licence, and is included in the numbers given; only one distributor deals with raw milk produced within the Borough.

All dairy premises were inspected periodically, and found generally satisfactory. When necessary, helpful advice and instruction were given to maintain the good standard the Borough enjoys.

Milk Samples.

Sixteen samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination for cleanliness and eight samples of pasteurised milk submitted for the Phosphatase test. The results are set out in the following table:

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Taken	Test applied	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested (Raw)	8	Methylene Blue		
		Reductase	8	—
Tuberculin Tested (Past.)	2	Phosphatase	2	—
Pasteurised	6	Methylene Blue		
		Reductase	5	1
		Phosphatase	6	—
		Totals	23	1

Ice Cream.

Eight samples of ice cream were procured during the year for bacteriological examination and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test.

7 of the samples were placed in provisional grade 1.

1 sample was placed in provisional grade 2.

These were very satisfactory.

Meat Inspection.

During the year, the inspection of meat at the Staithes Lane Slaughterhouse, and at the individual Butchers Shops was fully maintained and the following table gives details of the number of animals dealt with during the year and the condemnations made by the Meat Inspectors:

Month	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Totals
January	102	354	82	3	541
February	102	370	88	2	562
March	126	363	167	5	661
April	69	188	100	—	357
May	87	197	101	2	387
June	60	172	60	1	293
July	79	263	64	—	406
August	79	292	35	2	408
September	125	524	85	3	737
October	83	334	75	2	494
November	138	545	148	1	832
December	86	219	235	1	541
Totals	1136	3821	1240	22	6219

The total number of animals dealt with during 1955 was therefore 6,219, a decrease of 2,882, compared with the total for 1954.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1086	50	22	3821	1240	—
Number inspected	1086	50	22	3821	1240	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	1	11	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	246	—	1	198	70	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	22.65	—	9.1	5.47	5.9	—
(approximate percentages)						
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	29	4	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.67 (approx.)	8	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Weight of Meat, organs and offal condemned and surrendered during the year amounted to:
12 tons 5 cwts. 2 qrs. 18 st. 12 lbs.

Slaughterhouses and Licensing of Slaughtermen.

On July 1st, 1955, The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955, came into force and made further provisions for the care of animals awaiting slaughter, and the methods of slaughtering, including special provisions for the slaughter of horses at slaughterhouses, provided for this purpose.

The slaughterhouses at Morpeth were already fully equipped to cover these matters: there are no horse slaughterhouses at Morpeth.

During the year 18 Slaughtermen's Licences were issued, such licences now expiring 12 months from date of issue. Each licence also now states the kind of animals which a licensee may slaughter and the type of stunning instrument which may be used.

Food Premises.

In the Borough there are 140 food premises on the Register and the types of business are shown in the following table; in the case of General Dealers, the main line of business is given.

Type of Business	Number
Butchers	11
Bakers	5
Confectioners	15
Chemists	3
Cafes, Snack Bars, etc.	14
Cooked Meats	2
Dairies	5
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	9
Fishmongers	3
Fish Fryers	4
Frozen Foods and Poultry	1
Grocers	39
Hotels and Licensed Premises	23
Mineral Water Works	2
Wines, Spirits (Off Licence)	4

Of the above, the undermentioned are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

Type of Business	Number
Butchers Shops	11
Preserved Meats	2
Fried Fish Shops	4
Ice Cream retailers	34
Iced Lolly Manufacturers	3

During the year, food premises were visited and inspected under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and Clean Food Bye-laws of the Borough. The standard of hygiene was found generally good and it was pleasing to find that many traders were making great efforts to improve their premises and equipment.

No case was found requiring statutory action by the Council.

Food Inspection.

During the year the following foodstuffs were examined and surrendered and subsequently destroyed.

Commodity	Quantity	Reason for Condemnation	Weight	
			lbs.	Ozs.
Tinned Fruits	142 tins	Blown and damaged tins	185	4
Tinned Meats	75 tins	Blown and damaged tins	578	2½
Tinned Vegetables	67 tins	Blown and damaged tins	96	—
Tinned Preserves	4 tins	Blown and damaged tins	10	8
Tinned Fish	2 tins	Blown and damaged tins	1	5½
Tinned Milk	61 tins	Blown and damaged tins	31	12
Bacon	14 lbs	Fly Blown	14	—
Fishcakes	48	Staleness	12	—
Beef (Imported)	427 lbs	Bone Taint	427	—
Pork (Imported)	155 lbs	Moulds	155	—
Pies	14	Contamination	7	—
Total Weight			1518	—

The total weight of foodstuffs condemned during the year therefore was:

12 tons 19 cwt. 2 qrs. 0 sts. 4 lbs. 0 ozs.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

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

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

Disease	Age unknown	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—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	—	—	5	3	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	2	3	3	13	18	13	26	14	12	105	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	7
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	4	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	3	1

SONNE DYSENTERY

There were 105 cases of this disease notified and of these 101 occurred during February and March, in an institution within the Borough. Such outbreaks are fairly frequent sources of considerable trouble in hospitals of this type where control of the disease, always difficult, is made exceptionally so by reason of the kind of patient and the amount of overcrowding existing at the present time.

Only 4 cases were notified in the rest of the population and of these 3 were members of one family.

The true incidence of this disease must, however, be a matter for conjecture since many cases recover without seeking medical attention and, of those who do require treatment, many are not notified, despite the fact that the condition is legally notifiable.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

Three cases of this disease occurred during the year and, although all lived in the same quarter of the town no common source of infection and no connection between them could be found.

The first patient, a man of 47 years, had a prodromal illness from which he apparently recovered and he returned to work for several days. The secondary illness was characterised by rapidly spreading paralysis which proved fatal about three days after its onset.

The second patient was a small child who developed weakness of one leg but subsequently made a good recovery.

The third patient, a woman of 32 years, had a severe illness which left her with considerable disability.

No cases of non-paralytic disease were notified.

DIPHThERIA.

For seven years no case of this disease has occurred and for nine years it has caused no deaths.

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year, 133 pre-school children and 142 school children completed a course of primary immunisation, while 42 pre-school and 195 school children received reinforcing injections.

At 31.12.55 it was estimated that the immunity indices for the different age groups were as follows:

Children under 1 year	12.88%
Children aged 1—4 years	87.00%
Children aged 5—14 years	78.89%
All children under 15 years	74.67%

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1955

Site	MALES					FEMALES				
	25 - 34	55 - 64	65 - 74	75 +	Total	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	Total
Jaw	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tonsil	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Nasopharynx	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Oesophagus	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Lung.....	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1
Stomach	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Bile Duct	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Colon	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Ovary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Cervix	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Prostate	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bladder	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	5	3	1	10	1	2	2	3	8

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population — 1.68.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus — 0.28 per 1,000.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus in England and Wales — 0.389.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of all other sites — 1.40 per 1,000.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of all other sites in England and Wales — 1.667.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1955.

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	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 34 years	1	2	—	—	3	1	*1	—	—	2
35 - 44 years	3	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 54 years	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	2
55 - 64 years	2	1	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	2
65 - 74 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
75 years and over	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	9	8	—	—	17	5	2	—	—	7

(9 of these cases were institutional) (2 were not notified prior to death)

* not notified in Borough

(5 deaths occurred in an institution.)

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis, per 1,000 of the population — 0.65.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis, per 1,000 of the population in England & Wales - 0.13.

