

**[Report 1960] / Medical Officer of Health, Morpeth U.D.C. / Borough.**

**Contributors**

Morpeth (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1960

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ccxwzk5s>

**License and attribution**

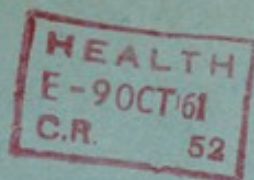
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

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 Council of Morpeth**

---

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

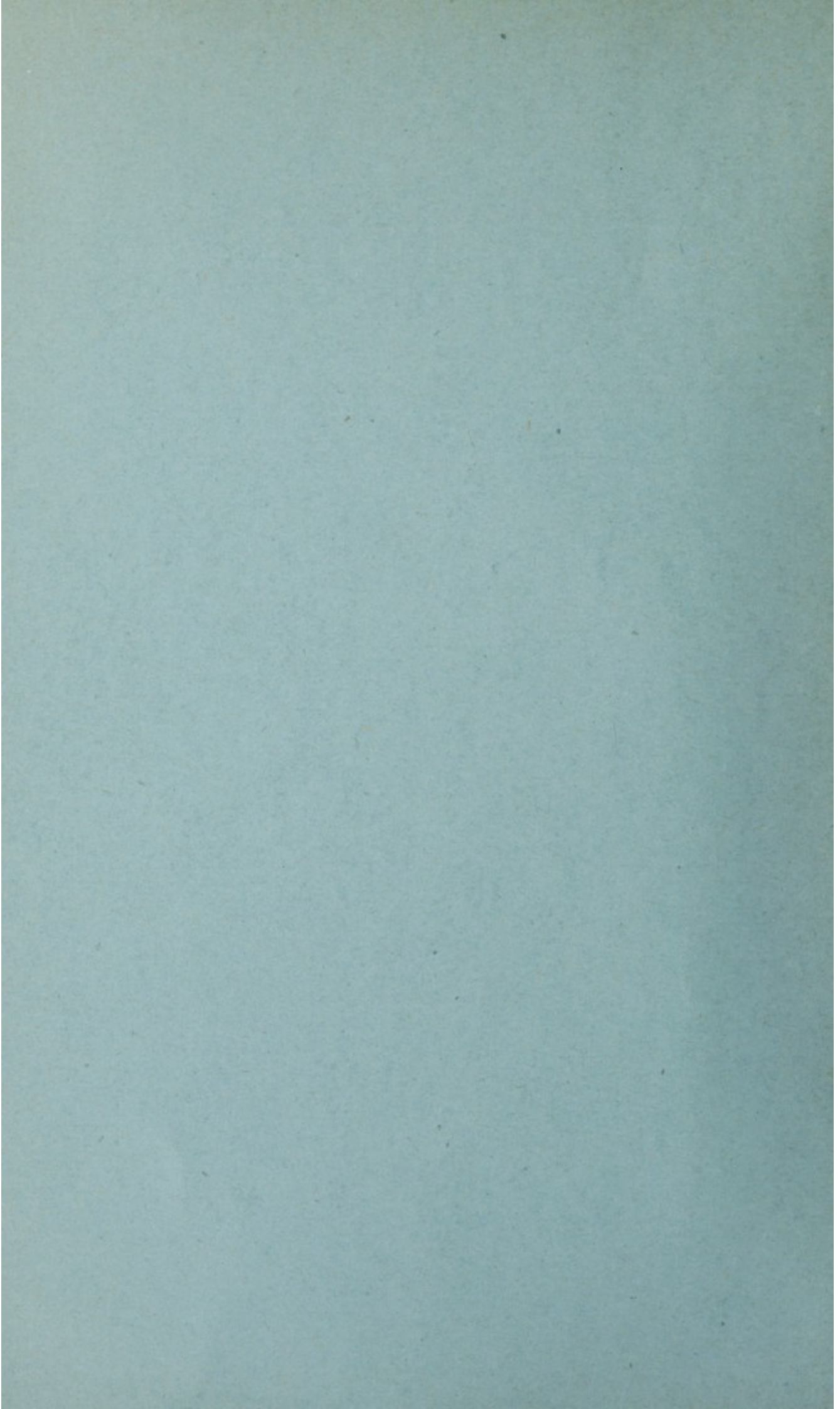
of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**



**FOR THE YEAR**

**1960**





ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for 1960.

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 1960.

The vital statistics remain quite satisfactory. The births rate is slightly lower than in 1959 but is still higher than the national average, while the death rate is fractionally lower than in the previous year and is lower than the corresponding rate for England and Wales.

Unfortunately the number of still-births rose from 4 to 7 and the rate per 1,000 births is, therefore, considerably increased and much higher than the national average.

However, the infantile mortality rate is much reduced and at 18.43 per 1,000 live births compares favourably with the rate of 21.7 for the country as a whole.

Only two new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified; a decrease of 7 compared with the previous year and there was one death which gives a death rate of 0.085 per 1,000 of the population. The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 0.68 per 1,000

The number of deaths from malignant neoplasms increased, regrettably, from 19 in 1959 to 28 in 1960, due entirely to a rise of 9 in the number of deaths among men. The death rate from this cause is slightly higher in Morpeth than in the country as a whole.

By the end of the year, the end of the slum clearance programme was in sight and it was estimated that only 10 more houses remained to be dealt with in clearance areas while a further 7 or so would require individual action. In areas already dealt with 46 families still awaited re-housing and 15 huts on the Common Camp were still occupied.

Plans for new Council houses, were, however, in hand and when built, these houses should enable practically all slum property to be vacated.


In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council for the consideration shown me and express my great appreciation of the help and co-operation so freely given to me by all departments of the Council and, especially by the Public Health Inspectors.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

Your obedient Servant

C. B. McGregor. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health  
Borough of Morpeth



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29804516>

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector	FRANK K. PERKINS. M.I.M., C.E., M.R.S.H.
Additional P. H. Inspector (Meat)	J. G. SIMPSON. M.A.P.H.I.
Offices of the Medical Officer	146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone	Ashington 2287
Offices of the P. H. Inspector	36, Bridge Street, Morpeth
Telephone.	Morpeth 36





SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

There is no alteration to report in the boundaries of the Borough but the Registrar-General estimates that the population at mid-1960 had increased by a further 260 which gives a total increase of 1,300 in four years.

Private enterprise was responsible for building another 159 houses during the year and this development is continuing.

A new infant school was opened, after Easter, to serve the increasing number of families living in the Spelvit Lane and Kirkhill estates.

There has been no change in the types of employment open to persons residing in the town.

The volume of traffic passing through the town continues to grow and the need for a by-pass to relieve the congestion in the summer months becomes more urgent each year.

Area in Acres.....	2,213
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1960..	11,990
One Penny Rate Produces.....	£563-6-1d
Rateable Value.....	£142,125
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1960).....	3,541
Total no. of houses owned by Local Authority.....	1,436

VITAL STATISTICS. (the figures in brackets are the figures for E. & W.)

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	118	90	208
Illegitimate.	6	3	9
	124	93	217
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	18.10		
Standard Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 1.03)	18.64 (17.1)		
<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	2	2
	2	5	7
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	31.25 (19.7)		

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	168	81	87
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population.	14.01		
Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.73)	10.22 (11.5)		
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.	Nil (0.39)		



Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	18.43 (21.7)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	14.42
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	111.11

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	2	1
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births)		14.08 (15.6)

Deaths of Infants under 1 week

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 week	2	1
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)		14.08
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)		44.64

The Registrar-General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATH 1960

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1. Tuberculosis (respiratory.	1	-
2. Tuberculosis (other forms)	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infection	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	2	2
11. " " (Lung and Bronchus)	3	1
12. " " (Breast)	1	3
13. " " (Uterus)	-	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	9	4
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	-
16. Diabetes	1	3
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	11
18. Coronary Disease (Angina)	12	9
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	4
20. Other Heart Diseases	17	28
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	2	2
22. Influenza	-	1
23. Pneumonia	3	2
24. Bronchitis	3	5
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	7
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
34. All other Accidents	-	1
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and Operations of War.	-	-
Total.....	<u>81</u>	<u>87</u>

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1960

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Total Number.</u>	<u>% of total Deaths,</u>
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	75	44.64%
Malignant Neoplasms	28	16.67%
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	21	12.5%
	<u>124</u>	<u>73.81%</u>

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	Under 1 day	1-6 days	1 wk	2 wk	3 wk	Under 1 weeks	1-3 months	4-6 mnths	7-9 months	10-11 months	Under 12 months
Prematurity.....	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Congenital Abnormality .....	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Respiratory Infection.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	2	1	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	4

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

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Infantile deaths under 1 year.	7	3	8	4	7	2	5	6	4
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births.	33.49	15.79	38.10	10.51	34.48	10.31	22.03	27.03	18.43



## SECTION B

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

#### Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are available at Ashington General Hospital.

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

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician.	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	1	-
General Practitioner	Swabs for Vincent's Organisms	1	1
General Practitioner	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	-	1
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms	1	3
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Para B. Organisms	-	2
Medical Officer of Health	Urine for Para B. Organisms	-	2

#### Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council which is the local health authority. Six drivers are employed at the Morpeth Depot where there are three ambulance and a sitting case car.

The area served includes the Borough of Morpeth, the western part of the Morpeth Rural District and parts of the 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 the Morpeth Rural District.

#### Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the Health Centre in Gashouse Lane. The services include Infant Welfare, Antenatal, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Speech Therapy and Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics and dental treatment for school and pre-school children and expectant mothers.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held once a month at Common Camp Morpeth.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

From the 1st of January until the 1st of April 1960, the supply of drinking water for the Borough was obtained partly from the Council owned boreholes at Gubeon and Tranwell, and partly from Tynemouth Corporation water undertaking.

After the 1st of April, the whole of the supply was drawn from the Tynemouth undertaking. The supply was sufficient and satisfactory. The number of dwelling houses with a piped supply of water into the house is 3,503 and the estimated number of houses supplied by means of standpipe is 38 most of which are in confirmed Slum Clearance Areas.

Bacteriological Examination of Water.

During the year four samples of drinking water were taken by the Public Health Inspector and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. All samples were satisfactory.

Chemical Analysis of Water.

One sample of drinking water was submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis.

The analyst's report is as follows:-

Chemical Results.	Parts per million.
Total solids dried at 180°C	200
Chlorine as Chloride	17.8
Free Ammonia	0.04
Albuminoid Ammonia.	0.08
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.01
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs at 27°C)	7.3
Total hardness	113
Non-carbonate Hardness	15
Carbonate Hardness	98
Lead and Copper	None
Iron	0.3
Appearance and colour (Hazen degrees 50)	Almost clean - pale yellow.
Smell and Taste	Satisfactory
Microscopic examination of deposit	Satisfactory
P.H. Value	7.3

Report.

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity. The water is free from taste and odour and microscopic examination of the very small amount of deposit is satisfactory.

I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for a Public Supply.

signed W. Gordon Carey.



PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Year ending 31st December, 1960

	No. of Inspections during the year.	No. of defects or contraventions of byelaws	No. of informal notices served	Defects remedied by informal action.	No. of statutory notices served	Defects remedied by Statutory Action	Legal Proceedings.
<u>Housing</u>							
Structural defects	209	23	4	22	-	-	-
Defective food store	40	30	0	(Slum Clearance)			
Dampness	40	40	0	(Slum Clearance)			
Overcrowding	69	3	0	(40 in Slum Clearance)			
<u>Water Supply.</u>							
Insufficient	40	9		(Slum Clearance)			
Unsatisfactory	3	2	-	2	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>							
Insufficient	45	30	-	15	(30 in Slum Clearance)		
Defective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Drainage</u>							
Insufficient	44	14		(Slum Clearance)			
Defective	4	4	-	4	-	-	-
<u>General</u>							
Shops	332	2	-	2	-	-	-
Food Premises	615	7	-	7	-	-	-
Milk Distributors	45	1	-	1	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses	654	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, etc.,	19	1	-	1	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insanitary refuse containers	57	57	2	57	-	-	-
Offensive accumulations.	5	4	-	4	-	-	-
Smoke Nuisances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	2228	227	6	115	-	-	-



### Complaints.

One hundred and seventy six complaints were recorded during the year, all of which were dealt with. It was not found necessary to resort to statutory action in seeking abatement of nuisances or repairs to property. Informal Notice and personal approach by the Public Health Inspector achieved the desired results.

### Other Visits and Inspections under the Public Health Act, 1936

New Building sites.	58
Drainage works	80
Sewage disposal works	28
Refuse disposal grounds	30
Public conveniences	61
Markets	36
Schools	13
Places of public entertainment	10
Rivers and streams	12
Courts, yards and passages	49
Disinfections	4
Disinfestations	41
Miscellaneous	47

### Smoke Abatement.

During the year, no problems have arisen from excessive emission of industrial smoke, or smoke from domestic chimneys, and though observations were made, no official action was necessary.

### Vermineous Premises.

There were 26 complaints of insect infestations received during the year, all of which were dealt with by the Public Health Department. The types of infestations are shown in the following table:-

Species	No. of Complaints
Bed Bugs	1
Cockroaches	14
Fleas	1
Flies	2
Woodworm	5
Wasps	3

### Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are two shops licensed to sell pet animals in the Borough. The premises received several visits during the year and conditions were found generally satisfactory. Close liaison is kept with the inspectors of the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, to detect and prevent any contravention of regulations.

### Rag Flock Act, 1951

There are no premises on the Borough Register dealing in rag flock.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

Destruction of rats and mice received full attention during the year. Sixty three complaints were recorded and many inspections were made of private dwellings, business premises, farms and Council owned properties, in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

The new refuse disposal site at Quarry Woods has required some, though not serious, attention.

The sewerage system of the Borough was given the usual half-yearly treatments as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Some details of the work done under the Act are as follows:-

Classification	Inspections	Treatments	Recovered.	
			Rats	Mice.
Dwelling Houses	1506	38	89	31
Business Premises	515	4	3	28
Agricultural	19	-	-	-
Refuse Sites	50	contin s	116	-
Council Properties	244	9	44	29
Rivers and Streams	46	2	42	-
Sewers	9	2	41	-
Sewage plants	10	3	88	-
Totals.	2399	58	423	88

#### Destruction of Moles.

Periodic outbreaks of moles occurred on Council-owned lands, which were dealt with by a specialist mole catcher, retained by the Council

#### Domestic Animals.

During the year, three domestic animals were disposed of by the Health Department, on request from the Police Authority.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year, a new main foul water sewer was laid from Green Lane via Allery Banks, Mafeking Park, the Rectory, to Stobhill Grange to take the discharge from new houses being built by private enterprise and from the existing houses at the Kylins and Kendor Grove previously connected to small disposal plants. The sewage from Loansdean area was intercepted at the Rectory, and now flows into the new sewer. A new 24 inch bore surface water sewer was laid from the Church Burn at Kendor Grove to the Stobhill Grange development. This sewer required a "thrust bore" construction under the main London-Edinburgh rail track (30yd bore) and the Rothbury track (50yd bore)

Foul and surface water sewers were extended at Spelvit Lane for further Council and private development.

#### Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing.

Refuse is collected daily by direct labour and deposited at Quarry Woods tipping site. This new site is well removed from the built-up area of the town and well screened by the surrounding woodland. The greater haulage distance is well compensated for by the much reduced risk of nuisance from odours, rodents and insects.

Street cleansing is done also by direct labour and this service has extended considerably owing to the erection of new housing estates.

The litter problem though still present appears to have been somewhat less acute during the past year and this is probably due to the increased number of litter baskets strategically placed throughout the town.



### Rivers and Streams.

The river Wansbeck, and other streams flowing through the Borough were given due attention during the year for any pollution that might arise. Apart from the usual wilful discarding of unwanted domestic articles at certain sections of the Wansbeck and Cottingburn, no other serious pollution was found.

### Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites in the Borough.

The Council has continued to grant **temporary** licences for caravans to be stationed on the North Common. Each application was considered individually and by the end of the year there were 40 caravans on the site. Planning approval for this site has been refused.

### Swimming Baths.

There are no swimming baths in the Borough.

### Schools.

There are **six** primary schools, two secondary schools, one grammar school for boys, one grammar school for girls, one Commercial College and one preparatory school in the Borough.

Visits were made from time to time to inspect the sanitary conveniences and cooking facilities and the standard of hygiene was most satisfactory.



FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted.
		Inspections	Written Notices	
1) Factories in which Sect. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be en- forced by L. A.	3	22	Nil	Nil
2) Factories not included in 1 in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the L. A.	46	28	1	Nil
3 Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers's premises)	5	6	Nil	Nil
Total	54	56	1	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			Referred to H.M.		
	Found	Remedied	Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness.	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION D.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1960

Houses completed during the year.

a) By Local Authority.	Nil
b) By other bodies or persons	159

Closing and Demolition

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	20
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	1
3. Houses closed, not demolished	5
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above.	Nil

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either the Housing or P.H. Acts.

1. By informal action	18
2. By owners, following statutory notice	Nil
3. By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched.

1. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	Nil
--	-----

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

A. Discretionary Grants.

	No. of separate Houses.
1. Applications submitted to L. A.	9
2. Applications rejected	-
3. Applications approved	9
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£138-0-0d
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme.	127

B. Standard Grants.

	<u>During the Year</u>	<u>Total To Date</u>
1. Number of separate houses for which grants were made during the year.	9	15
2. Number of houses so provided with:		
a) Bath or Shower	8	11
b) Wash Hand Basin	8	11
c) Hot Water Supply	8	11
d) Water Closet	6	9
e) Food Store	6	8



### Slum Clearance.

During the year, three areas containing twenty houses were dealt with under Slum Clearance procedure. Two of the Clearance Orders were unopposed and one which was opposed was subsequently confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

In addition twenty individual unfit houses including fifteen demolition orders and five closing orders were actioned. The Council Slum Clearance programme is almost completed. There remain one area and a few individual houses which are additional to the original programme, to be dealt with in 1961. From its commencement; up to the end of 1960, the necessary legal action either by Clearance Orders, Demolition or Closing Orders has been taken in respect of 183 houses of which 74 have been demolished and 43 have been closed.

At the end of the year 46 households in Clearance Areas or individual unfit houses awaited rehousing, and 15 families were still in huts at the Common Camp.

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Milk Supply.

All milk retailed in the Borough is designated milk, i.e. either Tuberculin Tested, pasteurised or Sterilised.

During the year seven dealers licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk, eleven dealers licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk and ten dealers licences for the sale of Sterilised Milk were issued some dealers trading in all three classes of milk.

There was also one supplementary licence issued to a dealer from outside the Borough to trade in Pasteurised Milk, within the Borough.

Ten samples of milk were obtained during the year for cleanliness and testing for proper processing. Nine satisfied the test and one narrowly failed the Methylene Blue Test.

#### Ice Cream Regulations.

At the end of the year, there were 42 premises on the Borough register, where ice cream was sold. Two vendors sold loose ice-cream, the remainder sold pre-packed ice cream. Vendors premises and equipment were regularly inspected during the year and were found generally satisfactory.

#### Meat Inspections.

The inspection of meat and meat products was given the utmost attention during the year either at the place of slaughter, or at the butchers' shops. The number of animals dealt with was less than in 1959, the following table showing the numbers of the various animals slaughtered.



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

	Cattle excl. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed.	1201	21	139	5916	1373
Number inspected	1201	21	139	5916	1373
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	1	7	14	1
Carcasses, some part or organ of which was condemned.	102	4	17	197	91
Percentage of No. affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci.	8.49%	23.8%	17.2%	3.58%	6.7%
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses, some part or organ of which was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcasses some part or organ of which was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted for treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Slaughterhouses.

The Council-owned slaughterhouses at Staithes Lane were again given every attention during the year by repair works and decoration, to preserve their full and efficient working order, and meat production proceeded unhampered. In accordance with the requirements of the Slaughterhouses Act 1958 and Regulations made there-under, the Council considered its future policy regarding slaughtering facilities in the Borough, including the probable or possible needs of others outside the Borough and of other interested parties.

After several meetings with all concerned, it was resolved to alter the existing slaughterhouses to comply with the regulations and to include for ~~expansion~~ throughout. The 1st day of January 1963 was recommended as the earliest date when the slaughterhouses would comply with the regulations.

Meanwhile, slaughtering proceeds smoothly, and meat is produced as hygienically as is possible.

Slaughtermen.

During the year, sixteen slaughtermens licences were approved for renewal, by the Council. There is still a marked lack of apprentice slaughtermen in the Borough, the shop trade with its more comfortable working conditions and hours being more acceptable. It is hoped, however, that better slaughtering conditions will bring greater inducement for young men employed by the butchers of the town, to qualify as licensed Slaughtermen. At present, the bulk of the slaughtering is done by three free-lance, licensed slaughtermen.

Food Premises, Food Hygiene Regulations and Educational Activity.

The various kinds of premises used for storage preparation and sale of foodstuffs for human consumption, were given maximum attention during the year to ensure that the provisions of the regulations were being observed. Recent changes brought about by the new regulations of 1960 should, when fully implemented, make for a yet higher standard of hygiene in the food handling trades.

Not all food business proprietors receive the regulations gracefully and some complain of the ever increasing burden upon their resources. Only after diplomatic and persistent representation of the benefits to these traders themselves have been made by the Public Health Inspector, have results been achieved. Fortunately it was possible to refrain from legal action, as the last resort.

The over-all picture, however is one of great improvement, and the effort of past years in the campaign for clean food by visiting premises detailed inspections, talks and printed matter, is reaping a reward. There is, however, still ground to be covered in the case of persons employed in the food trade. The "fashionable" elongated fingernails, and exaggerated and ever-changing styles of hair dressing, especially in the case of female assistants, who in order to preserve and display their latest creation, shun the use of head coverings, presents something of a problem.

Food Inspections.

During the year, the following foodstuffs were inspected, condemned and destroyed.

Commodity	Reason for Condemnation.	Weight.	
		lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Meats	Spoilage and under pressing	134	6
Tinned Fruit	Fermentation and blown tins	42	14
Tinned Veget.	Fermentation and blown tins	6	0
Tinned milk	Fermentation and blown tins	3	0
		186	4

All condemned and surrendered food stuffs were disposed of either by incineration or deep burial or by manufacture into fertilisers and other non-edible by-products. Meat and meat products removed from the slaughterhouses was coloured with a conspicuous green vegetable dye in accordance with the meat staining regulations to prevent their improper use.



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-on-Tyne.

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

	Under 1	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 34	35 44	45 54	55 64	65 74	75 +	Total
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Measles	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	-	-	2	2	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	9

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The numbers of notifications received in 1960 were extremely small. This may not represent the true state of affairs but it may be said that no major epidemic occurred.

The single case of paratyphoid fever occurred in a woman who was an inmate of an institution in the Borough and careful investigation failed to discover the source of infection. She was known to have visited her own home in another area during the period of possible infection and the Medical Officer of Health of that area was informed but no other case or carrier was discovered there either.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

No case of this disease has occurred in the past 12 years and no death from this cause has occurred in the past 14 years.

During the year, 239 pre-school and 94 school children completed a primary course of immunisation and 580 received re-inforcing injections. The vast majority of pre-school children are now protected simultaneously against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus, with a primary course of three injections in infancy and a single re-inforcing injection at the age of about 2 years and again at the age of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  - 5 years,

At 31.12.60 it was estimated that the immunity indices for the various age groups were as follows:-

Children under 1 year.	27.8%
Children aged 1 - 4 years	78.59%
Children aged 5 - 14 years	72.68%
All children under 15 years.	70.69%

As forecast in the report for 1959, the comparative lull in the polio vaccination campaign enabled immunisation in the schools to be resumed and, consequently, the figures for 1960 show a very marked improvement on those for 1959.



Poliomyelitis Vaccination

This campaign slackened very considerably in 1960 and, during the year 2,371 persons completed the primary course of two injections while 4,766 received a third injection. The comparative figures for 1959 were 7,918 and 9,386, respectively.

From the commencement of the campaign up to 31.12.60 21,715 persons had received two injections and 17,559 had received three injections.

These figures refer to the whole of the Central Area of the County, as separate figures are not available for the Borough alone.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1960

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.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
75 years and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	1

Only two new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year and no case of non-respiratory tuberculosis was notified. This compares favourably with the figures for the previous year, viz. 8 respiratory cases and 1 non-respiratory case.

There was one death from the respiratory form of the disease, the patient being a man aged 71 years.

This gives a death rate of 0.083 per 1,000 of the population.

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.068 per 1,000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS FOR 1960

	Male.							Female.				
	1 - 10 years.	35 - 44 years.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	75 years & Over	Total.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	75 years & over.	Total.
Brain	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Tonsil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Breast	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	3
Lung & Bronchus	-	1	-	1	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	1
Pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Stomach	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	1	-	2
Colon	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	-	1	-	1
Cervix	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lymphatic System	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
Haematopoietic System	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Rectum.	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	1	1	9	2	17	1	3	4	3	11

Malignant Neoplasm of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Morpeth.	0.334 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	0.481 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth	2.001 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales.	1.676 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth	2.335 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	2.157 per 1,000





