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Borough Council of Morpeth



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1963



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, 1963.

The total number of births was 12 less than in 1962 and the number of deaths was 37 more. Consequently the standard birth rate fell from 20.06 to 17.41 and the death rate rose from 11.24 to 12.5 per 1,000, both rates being less satisfactory than the corresponding rates for the country as a whole.

The still-birth rate and the infantile mortality rate were, however, considerably lower than the national average rates.

There was no death from tuberculosis but the number of deaths from malignant neoplasms rose from 23 in 1962 to 34 in 1963, giving Morpeth a death rate from this cause slightly higher than the national average. Deaths from cancer of the lung did not show an increase.

Progress with slum clearance continued and, by the end of the year, all the huts at the Common Camp had been vacated. No further clearance areas are contemplated and there remain only a few houses to be dealt with by individual action.

The year 1963 will be remembered as the year of the great flood but there is reason for gratitude in that no lives were lost and no epidemic followed.

Finally, I must express my appreciation of the consideration shown to me by members of the Council and the help given to me by all departments of the Council and especially by the Public Health Inspector, who, though often over-burdened, carries out his duties so admirably.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

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

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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 (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 2236



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SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Registrar-General estimates that the population of the Borough at mid-1963 was 13,480, an increase of 320 over the figure for the mid-1962 population.

The year 1963 will long be remembered in Morpeth as the year of the great flood. After a winter, during which the whole country endured almost Arctic conditions and most, if not all previous records for snow, ice and low temperatures were broken, a sudden and sustained rise in temperature on the afternoon and night of 6th March caused melting of the vast quantities of snow lying on the country to the west of Morpeth. This resulted in a rapid rise in the River Wansbeck and the flood struck the town on the morning of 7th March, eventually reaching a level at least 6 inches higher than the highest previous flood level of October 16th 1898. Some 460 houses and other buildings in the low-lying parts of the town were flooded, some to a depth of 8 feet. Part of the river wall down Bennett's Walk collapsed into the river endangering the high pressure gas main.

It was indeed fortunate that the river rose during the day for, if the flood had occurred at night, lives would, undoubtedly, have been lost. There was, in fact, no loss of life, although many of the rescue operations which had to be carried out were extremely difficult and not without danger.

The chaos, dirt and damage caused by such a flood cannot be fully appreciated until they are seen but much willing assistance came from all sides; from other local authorities, from voluntary organisations, from the Army and the R.A.F., Civil Defence, the Salvation Army, and local hospitals.

It was estimated that the cost to the Council, alone, was over £8,000 with approximately a further £20,000 as the Council's contribution to the construction of new river walls at an estimated cost of £100,000.

A Flood Relief Fund was raised to give some financial assistance to the many householders who had suffered loss and damage to their properties and furnishings.

There is no change to report in the area of the Borough or in the types of employment available.

The town continues to grow in a lop-sided way and to become more and more congested with the ever-growing volume of traffic, most of which is just passing, or trying to pass, through. The police try to encourage motorists to take a diversion via country roads avoiding the centre of the town but their efforts appear to meet with little success. The by-pass is urgently needed and inevitable but the prospect of it must cause some apprehension as to its probable detrimental effect on the attractive Wansbeck valley between Mitford and Morpeth.

Area in Acres	2,213
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1963 .	13,480
One Penny Rate Produces	£1,700
Rateable Value	£414,132
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1963)	4,033
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	1,495

VITAL STATISTICS.

(the figures in brackets are the figures for England and Wales).

Live Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	126	106	232
Illegitimate	2	3	5
	<u>128</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>237</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 17.58
 Standard Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 0.99) 17.41 (18.2)

Still Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 12.5 (17.3)

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
227	118	109

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 16.84
 Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.80) 13.47 (12.2)
 Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion Nil
 Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births Nil (0.28)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	-	3

Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births 12.66 (20.9)
 Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 12.93
 Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	-	2

Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births) 8.44 (14.2)

Deaths of Infants under 1 week.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 week	-	2

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) 8.44

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births) 20.83

The Registrar-General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1963.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, (other forms)	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	3	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung and bronchus	6	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	11	9
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	-
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	16	16
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	20	14
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	1
20. Other Heart Diseases	15	20
21. Other circulatory diseases	7	5
22. Influenza	6	1
23. Pneumonia	10	12
24. Bronchitis	6	-
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	-	2
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	4	12
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
34. All other accidents	3	7
35. Suicide	1	3
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
Total	118	109

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1963.

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Total Number</u>	<u>% of total Deaths</u>
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	85	37.44
Malignant Neoplasms	34	14.98
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	32	14.1
Pneumonia	22	9.69
Total	173	76.21

INFANTILE MORTALITY

	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10 - 12 months	Total under 1 year.
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Birth injury	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Malformation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	3

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

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Infantile deaths under 1 year	8	4	7	2	5	6	4	6	5	
Mortality per 1,000 live births	38.10	19.51	34.48	10.31	22.03	27.03	18.43	25.33	18.94	18.94

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:

Specimens sent by	Specimens	Pos	Neg
Chest Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	2	Not available
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	-	6
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for food poisoning organisms	7	1
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for virus examination	-	5
Medical Officer of Health	Food for food poisoning organisms	1	2
7 Sensitivity Tests were carried out.			

Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council which is the local health authority. The establishment was increased in 1963 by the appointment of two additional drivers to give better cover. There are now eight drivers employed at Morpeth depot, where there are four ambulances.

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.

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, Relaxation Classes, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Speech Therapy and Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics and dental treatment for school and pre-school children and expectant mothers.

SECTION C.Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.Water.

Water for drinking and general domestic use is supplied to the Borough by Tynemouth Corporation and during the year the supply and pressure were found sufficient to meet demands. Three more houses were provided with an internal supply and it is estimated that there are now fourteen houses without an internal supply and six of these are either included in confirmed slum clearance areas or subject to individual demolition orders.

Another two are Council owned houses which are undergoing reconditioning and will be provided with an internal supply. Most of the remainder are likely to be the subject of slum clearance action.

Water Sampling.

Eight samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and were given satisfactory reports by the Public Health Laboratory at Newcastle upon Tyne. The first four samples were taken at points within the flood area to check for any pollution, resulting therefrom.

Table 1, below, shows details of the samples.

Ref. No.	Location	Date to Laboratory	Report
1B/W/63	Mitford Road	15. 3. 63.	Satisfactory
2B/W/63	Gas House Lane	15. 3. 63.	- do -
3B/W/63	Crawford Cottages	15. 3. 63.	- do -
4B/W/63	Armstrong Terrace	15. 3. 63.	- do -
5B/W/63	Loansdean	3.10. 63.	- do -
6B/W/63	Bridge Street	3.10. 63.	- do -
7B/W/63	Gas House Lane	3.10. 63.	- do -
8B/W/63	Mitford Road	3.10. 63.	- do -

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Year ending 31st December, 1963.

	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	307	39	15	39	3	6	-
Defective food store	9	9	(9 in Slum Clearance)				
Dampness	10	9	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Water supply</u>							
Insufficient	3	3	1	1	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	(2 in Slum Clearance)						
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>							
Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	6	6	(Slum Clearance)				
<u>Drainage</u>							
Insufficient	7	7	(Slum Clearance)				
Unsatisfactory	6	6	3	3	4	-	-
<u>General</u>							
Shops	12	2	2	2	-	-	-
Food premises	207	3	3	3	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses	686	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping of animals	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defective refuse bins	19	4	4	4	-	-	-
Offensive accumulations	3	3	-	3	-	-	-
Smoke nuisances	7	1	-	1	-	-	-
Milk dealers premises	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ice-cream premises	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hairdressers' premises	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hotels and cafe kitchens	34	3	3	2	(one in progress)		
Bakeries	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Confection factories	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1359	95	32	59	7	6	-

Complaints.

During the year one hundred and ninety complaints were recorded and dealt with by appropriate action in each case, either informally or formally. For the first time over many years it was necessary to resort to statutory action to achieve the necessary results, but the number of cases was small. At the close of the year four matters remained outstanding pending negotiations with respective owners of premises involved. In one of these four, the necessary work is to be done in default.

Defects Remedied.

Roofs	6
Eavesgutters and downspouts	3
Yard pavings	2
External door woodwork	4
Window frames	5
Dampness remedied	1
External wall pointings	3
Internal wall plaster	3
Staircases	2
Floors	3
Chimney stacks	1
Flushing apparatus	2
Sash cords	4

Number of inspections following complaints	264
" " re-inspections " "	102

Other visits and inspections under the Public Health Acts 1936 & 1961

Building sites	55
Yards, courts and passages	2
Council houses	8
Inspections and testing of drains	121
Disinfestations	8
Disinfections	8
Markets	12
Places of public entertainment	2
Public conveniences	19
Refuse disposal grounds	13
Rivers, streams and ditches	14
Sewage disposal plants	20
Schools	3
Slum clearance areas	43
Applications for Council houses	13

Number of total inspections 341.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

In 1963 only one complaint was received of a nuisance caused by the emission of fumes from an industrial chimney. The trouble arose from the burning of foreign matter unavoidably mixed with the substance placed into the furnace, but the fumes produced were of short duration. However, the matter was taken up with the firm concerned and it was agreed that a remedy should be found to the problem.

Vermineous Premises.

Seventeen complaints were received of premises affected by insects. These were all effectively dealt with by spraying with approved insecticides or the use of a high temperature flame, as appropriate. Heavily infested woodwork and household articles were destroyed by burning. The following table indicates the species of insects dealt with:

Species	No. of Complaints.
Bed Bugs	3
Cockroaches	9
Fleas	1
Silverfish	2
Wasps	10
Woodworm	1

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The destruction and control of rats and mice received constant attention.

The total number of complaints was 101, and all were dealt with by carefully planned campaigns and treatments according to circumstances. General and special surveys were made throughout the Borough to detect any infestations. The refuse disposal site at Quarry Woods received special attention, and several full-scale treatments by poison baits, lethal gas and other approved methods yielded excellent results.

The sewerage system of the Borough was given two complete treatments with the pre-bait poison bait technique, as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Rodent Central Division. The following table shows some of the work done under this Act.

Type of Property	Inspections	Treatments	Recovered	
			Rats	Mice
Agricultural	23	1	-	-
Business	511	16	71	20
Council	227	14	69	31
Dwellings	1831	96	101	22
Refuse site	46	Continuous	180	-
Rivers and Streams	59	7	29	-
Sewage Works	10	3	15	-
Sewers	10	2	32	-
Totals	2717	139	497	73

Destruction of Moles.

Destruction of moles on Council owned lands is dealt with by a specialist mole catcher, engaged by the Council. Although no major infestations were reported during the year, vigilance is very necessary as these pests can do serious damage in a very short time.

Pet Animals Act 1951.

There were no new licenced premises added to the Borough register in 1963. The two existing pet shops were granted renewal of licence, and the businesses were conducted without nuisance being caused.

Domestic Animals.

Three domestic animals were disposed of during the year, one at the request of the Police Authority and two at the request of their owners.

Rag Flock Act, 1951.

One application was granted for premises to be registered for the storage of rag flock and filling materials to be used in the work of upholstery repairs. The premises were well-kept, and the materials used of good quality.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Extension of drains and sewers in the Borough continued during the year, largely owing to housing development, plus the improvement of existing houses which is showing a healthy forward movement under the Council's grant schemes. Modernisation of business premises also added its quota of new drainage.

The nett result of this is an ever-increasing volume of sewage to be treated at the purification works, thus placing a heavier burden upon the equipment and man-power resources and making the production of a satisfactory effluent extremely difficult if not impossible. During the year three samples of the effluent were taken by the River Board Authority. Two of the samples failed to comply with the terms of consent given by the River Board under Section 7 of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act 1961. One sample was satisfactory. A scheme for extensions to the sewage disposal works was submitted to the Ministry during the year and approval is awaited.

Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing.

House and trade refuse is collected daily by direct labour and conveyed to the Quarry works site on the outskirts of the town, for disposal. During the year little trouble was experienced from the tip, apart from an occasional outbreak of fire and the fluctuating rat population. There is still a high proportion of paper and cartons found in house refuse and this presents the greatest hazard so far, as tip fires are concerned. If householders would burn this material in their own firegrates, a little at a time, much of this problem would disappear. This in turn would relieve more space in the refuse vehicles for solid refuse. Tip fires were dealt with mainly by means of a pump and hoses kept on the site but the assistance of the firebrigade was required on four occasions.

Street cleansing is also done by direct labour, and was satisfactorily carried out during the year. As in past years, the service continued to expand as more streets in new housing estates came into use.

When discussing street cleansing, one cannot omit the problem of litter, and the black spots in the Borough still appear to be the Newmarket and Castle Bank areas in the vicinity of the sports ground. Perhaps this is to be expected considering that these places are the principal centres of attraction and activity in the Borough but one would have thought by this time, after so much campaigning and publicity both at local and national levels, the general public would be litter-conscious.

So many do not seem to grasp that placing litter on streets is a punishable offence and short of prosecuting offenders, one can only continue to appeal to those thoughtless people who perpetrate this nuisance, to visualise what a home would be like if the family threw all its unwanted rubbish on the living room floor. A few prosecutions would drive the lesson home more quickly and effectively than any number of appeals but this is a matter for the police who do not appear to attempt to enforce the anti-litter laws which are, admittedly, difficult to implement fully.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Wansbeck and its tributaries were again kept under observation for any pollution. One stream to the north of the Borough did, for a brief time, give cause for anxiety, but the pollution ceased almost as quickly as it began, and thereafter no further pollution was noted.

It is pleasing to report that during 1963, somewhat less trouble was experienced from rubbish being placed in the river. It is hoped that this will continue to improve and the river be given the chance to be the natural beauty spot it undoubtedly ought to be.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites in the Borough.

Swimming Baths.

There are no indoor swimming facilities in the Borough. A swimming bath in a neighbouring town caters for this need at present.

Schools.

Education in the Borough is catered for in six primary schools, two Secondary schools, grammar schools for boys and girls, a commercial college and a preparatory school.

Visits were made from time to time paying special attention to sanitary arrangements, water supply and ablution facilities, and the hygiene of food preparing kitchens. Only in one case was the provision of sanitary accommodation and ablution facilities in need of attention, otherwise the standard was good.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959.1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	3	7	-	-
(2) Factories not incl- uded in (1) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the L.A.	46	39	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding out- workers' premises).	4	9	2	-
Total	53	55	2	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which pro- secutions were inst- ituted.	
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	1	-

SECTION D.TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1963.Houses completed during the year.

a) By Local Authority	15
b) By other bodies or persons	74

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	5
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	1
3. Houses closed, not demolished	2
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	15
2. By owners, following statutory notice	1
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.

No. of separate
houses.

A. Discretionary Grants.

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority	6
2. Applications rejected	Nil
3. Applications approved	6
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£179-2-2d.
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme	147

B. Standard Grants.

	<u>During the Year</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
1. Number of separate houses for which grants were made during year	5	36 + 1L.A.
2. Number of houses so provided with:		
a) Bath or shower	4	28 + 3L.A.
b) Wash hand basin	4	22 + 3L.A.
c) Hot water supply	4	26 + 3L.A.
d) Water closet	4	22 + 2L.A.
e) Food store	1	14 + 3L.A.

CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

Number of unfit houses in clearance programme
remaining to be dealt with at end of year 4

Slum Clearance.

During the year under review, one further slum clearance area containing four houses was declared. In addition three demolition orders and two closing orders were made in respect of individual unfit houses. One of the demolition orders was carried into effect during the year.

Five houses in areas previously dealt with and one house under a demolition order, were demolished.

Three families were rehoused from slum clearance areas, and three families rehoused from individual unfit houses, by the Council.

At the close of the year the number of families awaiting rehousing from slum clearance areas was 8 and from individual unfit houses, 9.

All hutments at the Common Camp have now been vacated and the huts demolished.

Rent Act, 1957.

There were no applications received for a certificate of disrepair during the year.

SECTION E.INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Milk Supply.

The whole of the milk supply now sold in the Borough is designated i.e. either Tuberculin Tested, Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised, Pasteurised or Sterilised. Dealers are licensed by Northumberland County Council while sampling is done by the County Public Health Inspector. The details in the following table show the number and results of samples examined by the Methylene Blue Reductase Test, Phosphatase Test, and Biological Test.

Designation			Test Result					
			Passed			Failed		
T.T.	T.T. PAST.	PAST.	M.B.	PHOS.	BIO.	M.B.	PHOS	BIO
2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
-	-	8	7	8	-	1	-	-

Four of the Pasteurised samples were taken from schools' milk, all of which were satisfactory.

Ice Cream.

During the year one more shop was licensed for the sale of ice-cream, making a total of 48 premises on the register.

Three vendors in the Borough deal in bulk ice cream, the remainder in the pre-packed variety. Premises were visited to ensure observance of the regulations. No case arose requiring statutory action.

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection.

Work on reconditioning of the slaughter houses to bring them up to modern standards got under way after a difficult and frustrating delay caused by the severe winter and subsequent flooding of the lower reaches of the town. Normal slaughtering went on with minimum of disruption and credit is due to those in charge of the work and the slaughtering, and all others concerned for the patience and goodwill shown during this difficult period.

It is now expected that the reconditioned premises will be opened as a Public Abattoir during 1964.

Inspection of meat both at the slaughter houses and at butchers' shops was regularly carried out and the table below gives some details relating to this duty.

MEAT INSPECTION.

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

	Cattle excl. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	1279	48	109	6457	800
Number inspected	1279	48	109	6457	800
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	5	12	-
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	170	14	2	239	116
Percentage of No. affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	13.3%	29.2%	6.4%	3.9%	14.5%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

These regulations, which came into effect on 1st October, 1963, require local authorities to ensure that all home-killed meat is inspected and passed by a qualified inspector before it is allowed to leave the slaughterhouse. For a period of two years removal will be permitted if meat has not been inspected within six hours of the time of slaughter, but after 30th September, 1965, this exemption will cease to have effect.

Schedule 1 of the regulations sets out in detail the routine which the inspector must carry out when making his examination.

For many years all carcasses of animals slaughtered, in the Borough for sale for human consumption have been inspected by the Public Health Inspector but the detailed, routine compulsory examination which now has to be done inevitably takes more time than was previously required and places a heavier burden on the inspector, who is seriously in need of assistance.

The following table shows the comparative throughput of animals for the past five years:-

Year	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Total
1959	1326	7256	1609	89	10,280
1960	1222	5916	1373	139	8,650
1961	1457	6649	1414	159	9,679
1962	1340	6038	1101	98	8,677
1963	1327	6457	800	109	8,693

Slaughtermen's Licences.

During the year, 17 slaughtermen's licences were renewed by the Council. Slaughtering at the slaughterhouses continued to be done mainly by 3 free-lance slaughtermen, paid on headage by individual butchers.

Shops Act, 1950.

Twelve inspections under the Act were made and in two cases it was necessary to take action for a contravention of the Act relating to sanitary conveniences.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

Agricultural holdings coming under this Act in the Borough, were visited and no case arose requiring legal action.

Food Premises, Food Hygiene Regulations and Educational Activity.

Premises where food for human consumption is stored, prepared for sale or sold, were paid frequent visits during the year to ensure they were being kept in accordance with regulations. Only in a few instances was it necessary to call for greater effort from staffs to observe strict hygiene. It is sometimes very difficult to get very young and old members of staffs to appreciate the difference between apparent cleanliness and sterility when dealing with food handling, and the equipment involved. This has to be explained in detail and one can only hope, that the effort will bear fruit. On considering this aspect of the situation there seems to be a case for special tuition for people in the food handling trades, particularly for new recruits, through special courses, perhaps in evening classes forming part of the national education programme and, in time, it might be hoped that people carrying out this important work would be qualified to do so.

Meanwhile, reliance is placed upon the Public Health Inspector to inspect, observe and correct, any obvious failings, either by discussion or in the last resort through formal action by the Council. It is of some satisfaction that no case arose during the year, grave enough to require this action.

General Food Inspection.

During the year, the foodstuffs mentioned in the table below, were inspected and condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Commodity	Reason for Condemnation	Weight	
		lb.	oz.
Bacon	Decomposition	4	8
Biscuits	Flood Damage	45	0
Butter	Rancidity	11	8
Cheese	Mouldy	7	0
Cream	Souring	0	12
Eggs	Flood damage	24	0
Hammon	Malodorous	9	5
Milk (Evaporated)	Blown tin	3	0
Meat	Bone taint	328	0
Mutton	- do -	75	0
Orange drink	Blown tin	0	11½
Peas	Flood damage	20	14½
Potatoes	- do -	224	0
Pork	Malodorous	36	0
Rabbits	Flood damage	4	0
Soup	Punctured tins	4	4½
Spaghetti	Damaged tins	2	4
Tomatoes	Flood damage	28	9½
Table Jellies	- do -	7	0
Tinned Meats	Under processed	84	0
Tinned Fruits	Damaged tins	58	11½
Total weight:-		978	8½

Condemned and surrendered foodstuffs are disposed of by the Public Health Inspector either by incineration or deep burial. Where appropriate, certain foodstuffs are disposed of to manufacturers of inedible by-products, and before removal are stained with a conspicuous vegetable dye, to prevent wrongful use.

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

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

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

Disease	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
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	1	2	-	7
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	3
Measles	3	31	40	81	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	156
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	3	31	40	81	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	-	167

Measles.

The expected outbreak of Measles began in January and followed a somewhat unusual pattern.

In January 13 cases occurred, in February 34, in March 38 and then, with 11 in April, 13 in May and 10 in June the epidemic appeared to be subsiding. In July, however, it recurred and 33 cases were notified. Thereafter it subsided abruptly.

Food Poisoning.

All seven cases of food poisoning occurred in a hospital in the Borough and were due to *Cl. Welchii* organisms. The same organism was also isolated from a sample of meat but it was not possible to determine how the meat became infected. Food hygiene arrangements and practice at the hospital were very good but some improvements were suggested.

Diphtheria.

There has been no case of this disease during the past 15 years and no fatal case during the past 17 years.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year, 194 pre-school and 4 school children completed the primary course of treatment and out of this total of 198, all but 3 received triple antigen which gives protection against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus. In addition, 155 pre-school and 102 school children received re-inforcing injections.

Poliomyelitis-Vaccination.

During 1963, oral vaccine replaced the Salk vaccine almost entirely. The primary course of protection against poliomyelitis was given to 1,150 persons and 1,745 received re-inforcing doses.

These figures refer to the whole of the Central Area of the County.

TUBERCULOSIS.NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1963.

Age Groups	New Cases					Deaths				
	Resp		Non-Resp		Tot.	Resp		Non-Resp		Tot.
	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
75 years & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	4	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-

When a case of pulmonary tuberculosis occurs efforts are made to have all contacts examined by X-ray. This includes examination of work contacts.

One of the cases notified in 1962 had a large number of contacts at work and arrangements were made for the Mass X-ray Unit to pay a special visit to Morpeth. As a result, almost all the contacts were X-rayed and one new case was discovered. Advantage was taken of this special visit, to X-ray contacts of another case, who worked in, but lived outside, the Borough.

In all, 5 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified but there were no cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis and no deaths.

Death-rate from respiratory tuberculosis Nil

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.056 per 1,000 of the population.

Death-rate from non-respiratory tuberculosis Nil

Death-rate from non-respiratory tuberculosis in England and Wales 0.007 per 1,000 of the population.

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1963.

Site	Male					Total	Female					Total
	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over		35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	
Upper Jaw	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Larynx	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bronchus	-	2	2	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Oesophagus	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stomach	-	2	-	1	1	4	-	-	-	-	2	2
Pancreas	-	-	1	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Colon	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	3
Rectum	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cervix	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bladder	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	1
Haematopoietic System	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	2
Total	1	7	4	6	3	21	1	1	3	2	6	13

The total number of deaths from malignant neoplasms was 34, an increase of 13 over the previous year. This gives a death-rate in the Borough higher than the national average. Deaths from cancer of the lung were the same in number as in 1962 and the rate is lower than in England and Wales as a whole.

Malignant Neoplasm of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Morpeth	0.371 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	0.519 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth	2.151 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	1.658 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth	2.522 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	2.117 per 1,000

