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Contributors

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MORPETH BOROUGH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Senior Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1970



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you the report of the Medical Officer of Health and that of the Senior Public Health Inspector for the year 1970.

The population continued to increase in the period under review and rose from 14,620 in 1969 to 14,700 in 1970. There was a fall in the adjusted birth rate from 13.1 to 10.8 - compared with a national figure of 16.0 in 1970. The adjusted death rate increased from 9.5 in 1969, to 12.0 in 1970 - compared with a national figure of 11.7. The number of stillbirths increased from 3 to 6, giving a higher stillbirth rate of 36 per 1,000 live and stillbirths - the national figure for 1970 was 13. Only one infant died before reaching the age of one year and the infantile mortality rate was correspondingly low- 6, per 1,000 live births, in comparison with the national figure of 18.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis in 1970 and the number of deaths from malignant neoplasms fell from 42 in 1969 to 32 - 8 of these were due to cancer of the lung and bronchus.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that no new case of tuberculosis was notified in the town in 1970. Cases of infective hepatitis continued to occur throughout the period, and almost 50% of these were adults, but none was a food-handler. There was one meningococcal meningitis, in a 13 month old child, who was proved to have been a contact of a notified case in another area.

Cases of measles began to occur in the spring and there were 35 in all. Measles vaccine, which had been in very short supply for over a year due to the withdrawal of supplies by one firm, again became available in May 1970 and the vaccination campaign against this disease was recommenced. The satisfactory effect of this, it is hoped, will be seen in the future. 679 children were vaccinated against measles in the whole of the central area of Northumberland during the year under review.

Sixteen cases of whooping cough were notified in the last months of the year - 5 of these were known to have been immunised against the disease, but one wonders whether these were in fact an adenovirus infection, which is capable of simulating the paroxysmal cough seen in whooping cough.

In the spring of the year, an outbreak of what was thought to have been a virus infection occurred in Morpeth. Attention was drawn to this because of the high rate of absenteeism of school children, and investigation proved that many members of each family were affected. The symptoms included vomiting, sore throat, swollen glands, headache, diarrhoea, photophobia and in some cases a troublesome residual cough. Affected adults complained of severe vomiting and an aching, stiff neck in most cases, and were very poorly. Unfortunately, specimens sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, failed to identify the virus.

In September, vaccination against german measles was offered to all 13 year old girls in the town, to ensure protection against this disease because of the known association of certain foetal abnormalities following an attack of german measles during pregnancy. A very good response was obtained and approximately 130 consent forms were returned, but the vaccine had not become available and vaccinations could not be carried out before the end of the year.

One complaint of mosquito nuisance was received in October, from the Kendor Grove area of the town. Several specimens were collected and were sent to the British Museum for identification. One of the specimens although damaged was thought to be *Culex pipiens*, which is a species capable of biting and which is known to enter houses particularly at this time of year in search of a place to hibernate. Following this report, the Police were contacted by the Senior Public Health Inspector, and were asked to cut down the foliage adjacent to the Church Burn in order to allow the water to flow more freely.

Streams of this type and any collections of stagnant water, however small, are a potential source of nuisance as far as the breeding of mosquitoes is concerned.

Once again, I should like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Hay, The Public Health Inspectors and other Council Officials for the help and co-operation which they extended to me during the year, and for the continued interest and support of members of the Council.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,
K. Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	KATHLEEN DICK M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	J.G. SIMPSON M.A.P.H.I.
Assistant Public Health Inspector	A. HUTCHINSON M.A.P.H.I.
Offices of the Medical Officer	156, Woodhorn Road, Ashington.
Clerk to the Medical Officer	Mrs. M. Hay
Telephone	Ashington 2287/3442
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	29, Bridge Street, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 3892

Area in Acres	2,221
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1970	14,700
One Penny Rate Produces	£2,110
Rateable Value	£513,257
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1970)	4,545
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	1,510

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VITAL STATISTICS.

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

BIRTHS

Live Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	154	76	78
Illegitimate	6	3	3
	<u>160</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>81</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	10.9
Local Adjusted Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 0.99)	10.8 (16.0)
Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate	0.67
Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births	4 (8)

Still Births.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	36 (13)
--	---------

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
245	113	132

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	16.7
Local Adjusted Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.72)	12.0 (11.7)
Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate	1.03 (1.0)
Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Pregnancy, Childbirth and abortion	NIL
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	NIL (0.24)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

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

Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	6 (18)
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	6 (17)
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	NIL (26)

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks - NIL

Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births NIL (12)

Deaths of Infants under 1 week - NIL

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	NIL (11)
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)	36 (23)

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 years & over
B17	Syphilis and its Sequelae	M - F 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	M 2 F -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M - F 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M - F 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M 6 F 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	-
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M - F 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	M 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
B19(10)	Leukaemia	M - R 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	M 1 F 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	-
B20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	M 1 F 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	M 2 F 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	M 1 F -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	M 2 F 1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1- 5-	5- 15-	15- 25-	25- 35-	35- 45-	45- 55-	55- 65-	65- 75 years & over
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B46(9) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B46(11) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B42 Congenital Anomalies	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BE50 All Other External Causes	M	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE48 All Other Accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	113	-	-	-	1	3	3	8	18	41	39
	F	132	-	1	-	-	-	2	10	14	41	64

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1970.

CAUSES	Total Number 1969	Total Number 1970	% of Total Deaths 1969	% of Total Deaths 1970.
Diseases of the Heart & Circulatory System	87	94	41.43	38.36
Malignant Neoplasms	42	32	20	13.05
Cerebrovascular Disease	24	41	11.4	16.7
TOTAL	153	167	72.83	68.11

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The following table gives details of the causes of death in the different age groups during the past year.

	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10-11 months	Total under 1 year
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

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

	'61	'62	'63	'64	'65	'66	'67	'68	'69	'70
Infantile deaths under 1 yr.	6	5	4	6	4	1	4	2	3	1
Infantile Mortality Rate	25.33	18.94	12.66	24.79	17.78	4.46	20	10.7	16	6

STATISTICS FOR THE BOROUGH OF MORPETH

Year	Population	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 pop.	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1937	9,552	13.7	12.03	99.1
1938	9,458	17.2	11.9	45.4
1939	9,732	16.13	13.06	44.58
1940	9,763	14.65	12.29	60.21
1950	10,610	18.75	9.61	34.48
1960	11,990	18.10	14.01	19.43
1965	13,950	16.13	12.9	17.78
1966	14,150	15.83	13.22	4.46
1967	14,340	14.2	12.8	20
1968	14,510	12.9	15.4	10.7
1969	14,620	13.2	14.4	16
1970	14,700	10.9	16.7	6

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

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

	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
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	5	8	3	3	2	1	-	1	-	23
Meningococcal Meningitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	1	8	9	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Whooping Cough	2	2	1	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
TOTAL	3	11	10	31	10	3	3	2	1	-	1	-	75

IMMUNISATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY DURING 1970.

DISEASE	PRIMARY IMMUNISATION					Others under 16 years	TOTAL
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1963-66		
Diphtheria	5	661	149	8	15	32	870
Whooping Cough	5	656	145	7	9	-	822
Tetanus	5	662	149	8	16	87	927
Polio-myelitis	7	657	144	12	20	57	897
Measles	2	150	252	129	127	13	679
<u>RE-IMFORCING DOSES</u>							
Diphtheria	-	..	28	82	1017	33	1160
Whooping Cough	-	-	23	66	64	1	154
Tetanus	1	1	28	83	1030	641	1704
Polio-myelitis	-	-	28	82	1014	711	1835
<u>Smallpox</u>	<u>No. of children vaccinated</u>					<u>No. revaccinated</u>	
<u>Age at date of vaccination.</u>							
Under 1 year	10					-	
1 year	62					-	
2 - 4 years	84					6	
5 - 15 years	72					30	
TOTAL	228					36	

TUBERCULOSIS

There were no new cases and no deaths from this disease.

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis in Morpeth	NIL
The corresponding rate for England and Wales	0.019 per 1,000 pop.
Death rate from non-respiratory tuberculosis in Morpeth	NIL
The corresponding rate for England and Wales	0.014 per 1,000 pop.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.

The registrar-General's figures have been used in calculating the death-rates given below:-

Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus.

Death rate in Morpeth	0.54 per 1,000 of pop.
Death rate in England and Wales	0.617 per 1,000 of pop.

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death rate in Morpeth	1.63 per 1,000 of pop.
Death rate in England and Wales	1.773 per 1,000 of pop.

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death rate in Morpeth	2.17 per 1,000 of pop.
Death rate in England and Wales	2.490 per 1,000 of pop.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service.

This service is provided by the County Council from the Ambulance Station in Gas House Lane, where there are four ambulances, a Station Officer and twelve Drivers. A 24 hour service is given and all vehicles can be controlled by radio from the Central Control at Wideopen.

One of the two vehicles in Northumberland County to be used in the event of a major disaster, is stationed and maintained at Morpeth Ambulance Depot.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

The full range of services is provided at the County Council's Clinic in Gas House Lane, where there are three Health Visitors.

The three firms of practitioners now make full use of the clinic building for maternity and child welfare work.

Meals on Wheels.

Figures supplied by the County Organiser of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service show that, during 1970 3,300 meals were delivered to old people in their own homes in the town.

Chiropody for Old People.

This service continued to operate through the Old People's Welfare Committee.

Home Safety Committee.

This enthusiastic and active committee with representatives from the various organisations in the town and sponsored by the Borough Public Health Committee, continued to meet regularly during the year. Financial help was received from Morpeth Borough Council, and also from the Central Area Health Sub-Committee of the County Council. A series of projects were carried out in an effort to reduce the number of home accidents.

Day Centre.

A Day Centre for house-bound and handicapped people was opened in July 1970 and was held in Morpeth Community Centre. Twelve patients were brought on one day each week to the hall by ambulance, and were given a hot drink on arrival, a mid-day meal and afternoon tea. The mental and physical improvement in these patients by the end of the year, must have been most gratifying to the members of the Old People's Welfare Committee, who were responsible for the organisation and running of the Day Centre, and special tribute must be made to Miss Goldsbury and Councillor Miss Cassidy for their invaluable work in this connection.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

YEAR 1970

WATER

The Borough of Harpeth is supplied with water for drinking and general domestic purposes by Tynemouth Corporation Water Undertaking.

The supply and quality were generally satisfactory. Only one complaint of sediment in the water was received during the year. After investigation the complaint was transferred to the water company's inspector who arranged for the mains serving the area to be sluiced. A sample from the residence of the complainant was taken by the Public Health Department and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination - see sample 9 in Table 1.

In all 14 samples were taken from various parts of the Borough and the following table shows the laboratory examination results.

TABLE 1

Ref	Location	Date of Collection	LAB. EXAM. RESULTS	
			Probable No of Coliform Bacille per 100ml	B. Coli type 1
1	Abattoir	17.3.70	0	0
2	McGills Yard Standpipe	"	0	0
3	57 Townsend Crescent	17.4.70	0	0
4	Carlisle Park Pavillion	"	0	0
5	Staff Room Swimming Pool	5.5.70	0	0
6	Town Hall	"	0	0
7	Fulbeck Grange Ground Floor	26.8.70	0	0
8	Fulbeck Grange First Floor Tanks Supply	"	1	1
9	6 Broom Close Green Lane	"	0	0
10	Fulbeck Grange First Floor	3.9.70	0	0
11	Pottery Bank Farm (Standpipe)	"	0	0
12	Fulbeck Grange First Floor	22.10.70	0	0
13	Grandstand Flats The Common	"	0	0
14	The Bungalow North Level Crossing	5.11.70	0	0

The pollution of Sample No 8 was obviously due to the presence of a dead bird found in the supply tank serving the first floor kitchen of Fulbeck Grange. The occupier of the property was advised to have the tank thoroughly cleansed and sterilised and properly secured against ingress of birds and other polluting media. This was done and repeat samples Nos.

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10 and 12, show the measures taken were successful.

SAMPLING OF WATER FOR LEAD CONTENT

A sample of drinking water was taken from a situation where lead service piping was involved and sent to the Public Analyst for examination. The analyst reported the lead content of the sample to be 0.03 parts per million, which is within the permissible limits of 0.05 parts per million and therefore satisfactory.

FLUORIDE IN WATER SUPPLY

The water supplied to the Borough has a natural Fluoride content of the order of 0.05 parts per million. No action has been taken by the water undertaking to add Fluorine to the supply.

Two houses in the Borough, one under a closing order, have external standpipes for a supply of water. Appropriate action is under consideration in the other case.

SAMPLING OF SWIMMING POOL WATER

During the year, the water in the Council owned Swimming Pool was accorded close attention and a great many samples were taken for bacteriological examination. Table 2 gives details of these.

TABLE 2

Ref.	Location	Date Collected	RESULTS OF BACT. EXAMINATION	
			Probable No of Coliform Bacille per 100ml	B. Coli type 1
1	Deep end	5.1.70	0	0
2	Shallow end	"	0	0
3	Deep end	20.1.70	0	0
4	Shallow end	"	0	0
5	Deep end	4.2.70	0	0
6	Shallow end	"	0	0
7	Deep end	25.2.70	0	0
8	Shallow end	"	0	0
9	Deep end	17.3.70	0	0
10	Shallow end	"	0	0
11	Deep end	7.4.70	0	0
12	Shallow end	"	0	0
13	Deep end	21.4.70	0	0
14	Shallow end	21.4.70	0	0

Contd . . .

TABLE 2 (Contd)

15	Deep end	5.5.70	0	0
16	Shallow end	"	0	0
17	Deep end	18.5.70	0	0
18	Shallow end	"	0	0
19	Deep end	2.6.70	0	0
20	Shallow end	"	0	0
21	Deep end	22.6.70	0	0
22	Shallow end	"	0	0
23	Deep end	8.7.70	0	0
24	Shallow end	"	0	0
25	Deep end	29.7.70	0	0
26	Shallow end	"	20	1
27	Shallow end	5.8.70	11	1
28	Deep end	"	1	0
29	Deep end	17.8.70	0	0
30	Shallow end	"	0	0
31	Deep end	26.8.70	0	0
32	Shallow end	"	0	0
33	Deep end	29.9.70	0	0
34	Shallow end	"	160	1
35	Deep end	6.10.70	5	0
36	Shallow end	"	0	0
37	Before Filtration	"	0	0
38	After Filtration	"	0	0
39	Deep end	20.10.70	0	0
40	Shallow end	"	0	0
41	After Filtration	"	0	0
42	Shallow end	22.10.70	0	0
43	Deep end	"	0	0
44	After Filtration	"	0	0
45	Deep end	27.10.70	0	0
46	Shallow end	"	25	0

Contd.....

TABLE 2 (cont'd)

47	After Filtration	27.10.70	0	0
48	Deep end		2	0
49	Shallow end	"	0	0
50	After filtration	"	0	0
51	Deep end	29.10.70	0	0
52	Shallow end	"	0	0
53	After filtration	"	0	0
54	Deep end	"	0	0
55	Shallow end	"	0	0
56	After filtration	"	0	0
57	Deep end	3.11.70	1	0
58	Shallow end	"	3	0
59	After filtration	"	0	0
60	Deep end	"	0	0
61	Shallow end	"	0	0
62	After filtration	"	0	0
63	Deep end	5.11.70	0	0
64	Shallow end	"	0	0
65	After filtration	"	0	0
66	Deep end	"	0	0
67	Shallow end	"	0	0
68	After filtration	"	0	0
69	Deep end	10.11.70	0	0
70	Shallow end	"	0	0
71	After filtration	"	0	0
72	Deep end	"	0	0
73	Shallow end	"	0	0
74	After filtration	"	0	0
75	Deep end	12.11.70	0	0
76	Shallow end	"	0	0
77	After filtration	"	0	0

Cont'd

TABLE 2 (contd)

78	Deep end	12.11.70	0	0
79	Shallow end	"	0	0
80	After filtration	"	0	0
81	Deep end	17.11.70	0	0
82	Shallow end	"	0	0
83	After filtration	"	0	0
84	Deep end	"	0	0
85	Shallow end	"	0	0
86	After filtration	"	0	0
87	Deep end	19.11.70	0	0
88	Shallow end	"	0	0
89	After filtration	"	0	0
90	Deep end	"	0	0
91	Shallow end	"	0	0
92	After filtration	"	0	0
93	Deep end	24.11.70	0	0
94	Shallow end	"	0	0
95	After filtration	"	0	0
96	Deep end	"	0	0
97	Shallow end	"	0	0
98	After filtration	"	0	0
99	Deep end	26.11.70	0	0
100	Shallow end	"	0	0
101	After filtration	"	0	0
102	Deep end	"	0	0
103	Shallow end	"	0	0
104	After filtration	"	0	0

As the table shows, very few samples showed a bacterial count and although the desire is for a clean water at all times, the overall results were most encouraging.

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CAMPING SITES AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

There are no organised official camping sites in the Borough but other recreational facilities are capiously provided for throughout the Borough.

In the town centre there is the beautiful Carlisle Park where one may enjoy bowls, tennis, putting and clock golf, or if not the active kind one can sit amid pleasant floral surroundings and enjoy uplifting of nature at its cultivated best.

Near at hand is the excellent paddling pool and sand playpit to delight the children, and the well kept grassland and woodland where one can sit and play at leisure. To the South of the town is the beautiful sweep of Deuchar Park to delight the eye at all times of the year, while to the South West there is Storey Park and the Common where football pitches are provided. There are similar facilities at Stobhillgate South East of the town centre and in this area is the Morpeth Cricket and Tennis Club.

Adjoining the Common is the excellent Morpeth Golf Club situated in a well elevated and bracing area of the town. Among other attractions is the modern Swimming Pool in the Newmarket, the pleasant promenade walk alongside the river Wansbeck, stretching virtually from Castle Square to the High Stanners, a lovely grassland area appreciated by residents and visitors as a restful retreat.

For those who enjoy boating, facilities are available in the region of Carlisle Park and Castle Woods, during the Summer months, and for everyone there are pleasant walks and historic buildings to be explored and enjoyed. This does not exhaust the facilities provided but amply demonstrates the attractions of Morpeth Borough, and the efforts of the Council to provide for and encourage activities, to promote good health and happiness.

COMPLAINTS

During the year 125 complaints were received and dealt with. The following list shows the nuisances and defects after inspection and appropriate action taken:-

Accumulations removed	...	...	...	13
Incineration of refuse	...	...	...	12
Drains cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	14
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	3
Eavesgutters cleansed	...	...	...	4
Eavesgutters repaired	...	...	...	1
Fall spouts repaired	...	...	...	1
Dilapidations remedied	...	...	...	1
Noisy animals	...	...	...	1
Unkept premises	...	...	...	1

OTHER INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED OUT

Courts, yards and passages	...	...	...	17
Disinfections	...	...	...	5
Disinfestations	...	...	...	35
Dilapidations	...	...	...	1
Drainage systems	...	...	...	18
Infectious disease enquiries	...	...	...	12
Immigration regulations	...	...	...	2
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	4
Offensive odours	...	...	...	21
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	13
Public sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	15
Refuse disposal sites	...	...	...	12
Removal of household effects	...	...	...	1
Refreshment houses	...	...	...	15
Sale of fireworks	...	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	...	11
Septic tank systems	...	...	...	3
Sewage disposal works	...	...	...	2
Swimming Pool	...	...	...	17
Unsatisfactorily kept houses	...	...	...	6

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The sewerage and drainage area of the Borough continued to expand during the year due to new estates being developed.

The enlarged and modernised purification plant was commissioned during the year and which is designed to produce an effluent to meet the requirements of the Northumbrian River Authority.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

STREET CLEANSING

Collection and disposal of refuse in the Borough is done by direct labour and under the contract of the Borough Engineer & Surveyor. Refuse is deposited at the Quarry Woods on the eastern boundary of the Borough, supervised by a tip attendant. The quantity of combustible matter makes up a considerable proportion of the refuse requiring as much manual separation as possible to reduce the incidence of tip fires. The service was in all respects satisfactorily carried out.

Street cleansing was also well maintained during the year, but despite the fact that 1970 was European Conservation Year, intended to promote wider public interest in preserving and improving the environment, discarded household effects and other rubbish were still to be found in secluded places.

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with obvious disregard of the aims of conservation year, and the free service given by the Council for the collection of un-wanted household effects. One looks forward to the time when civic pride will assert itself in the minds of those who perpetrate this nuisance.

RIVERS (PREVENTION OF POLLUTION) ACTS 1956 & 1961

During the year several inspections were made of the river Wansbeck and its tributary streams for any signs of pollution. Apart from a minor incident thought to be caused by some detergent gaining access to the river and which was of short duration, no other pollution was found.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

During the year one case of excessive noise from a pneumatic drill and one other of noisy animals were dealt with.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

There is only one premises in the Borough licensed under this Act for the sale of pet animals.

Inspections were made during the year but no contraventions of the terms of licence were found.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The year under review again saw sustained action against rats and mice. No serious infestations were found or reported, and the sewerage system of the Borough was only mildly affected, demonstrating the value of planned attack and follow-on treatment.

It was again a pleasure to place at the disposal of the student public health inspectors class from the Charles Trevelyan College, Newcastle upon Tyne a section of the Borough sewerage system, campaign maps and other facilities for their study of rodent control work.

The following summarises work done under the Act, other than sewers:-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties inspected following notification	59	-
Number infested by		
(a) Rats	43	-
(b) Mice	10	-
Number of properties inspected for reasons other than notification	891	5
Number infested by		
(a) Rats	2	1
(b) Mice	1	-

DESTRUCTION OF MOLES

Mole infestations on Council owned lands are dealt with by a specialist in this work retained by the Council. Infestations during the year were of minor nature and were promptly dealt with.

DESTRUCTION OF PERAL PIGEONS

During the year close attention was given to this work and 250 birds were destroyed by the rodent operator who operates in close liaison with the police authority. Peral pigeons, like rodents are no respectors of boundaries in that reinfestations can and do occur. Sustained effort must therefore be made to keep them under control.

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DESTRUCTION OF INSECT PESTS

Thirty four complaints of infestations by insects were dealt with during the year using approved insecticides both liquid and gaseous. The following shows the species encountered and premises affected.

SPECIES	TYPE OF PROPERTY AFFECTED	
	Local Authority Houses	Private Houses
Cockroach	10	1
Silverfish	1	2
Wasps	8	12

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

There is only one premises in the Borough licensed to board dogs. Inspections were made from time to time to check that the conditions of the licence were being upheld. Dogs are boarded almost exclusively during the summer season, while owners are on holiday.

Nothing of an objectionable nature was found at the premises.

SCHOOLS

School kitchens and sanitary conveniences inspected during the year were found to have a good standard of hygiene with the exception of one school where it was felt that the supply of hot water to the wash-basins in the infants ablutions should be improved. This matter was referred to the Director of Education and I understand, is to be considered.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

At the close of the year a total of 203 premises employing 1207 persons were on the Borough register. During the year 15 premises were removed from the register and 9 were added and 186 inspections were made.

The following shows an analysis of registered premises according to classification.

CLASS	NO ON REGISTER	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
Offices	61	314
Retail Shops	119	669
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	1	11
Catering establishments open to public and canteens	21	211
Fuel depots	1	2
TOTALS:-	203	1207
	Total Males	403
	Total Females	804

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS UNDER THE ACT

SECTION	SUBJECT MATTER	NUMBER
4	Cleanliness	8
6	Temperature	3
8	Lighting	2
12	Clothing accommodation	2
13	Sitting facilities	1
16	Floors, stairs and passages	3
17	Fencing of exposed machinery	1
24	First Aid	4
TOTAL:-		24

The service of informal notices followed up by discussions and advice proved sufficient to ensure compliance with the Act and regulation made thereunder.

Four accidents were reported during the year, all non-fatal. All were investigated and appropriate advice given. Three of the accidents were in retail shops two involving the use of hand tools, and one while handling goods. The other occurred while handling goods in a catering establishment.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

At the close of the year there were 42 factory premises in the Borough register 41 of which were those whereat power-driven machinery was used and where Section 7 of the Act dealing with sanitary conveniences is enforceable by the District Council and one where no power driven machinery was used and where section 1,2,3,4,6, and 7 are enforceable by the District Council.

The following shows inspections made under the Act:-

PREMISES	NO ON REGISTER	INSPECTIONS	NO OF NOTICES	PROSECUTIONS
1. Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are enforced by the District Council.	1	1	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1, in which section 7 is enforced by the District Council	41	12	1	-

HOUSING

New Houses completed during the year

(a)	By the Local Authority	Nil
(b)	By any other Housing Authority	Nil
(c)	By Private Persons	74

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

1.	Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
2.	Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	3
3.	Houses included in Clearance Area but not yet demolished	12
4.	Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above	Nil

REPAIRS

Houses made fit

5.	By informed action	5
6.	By owners following statutory notice	Nil
7.	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
8.	Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

SLUM CLEARANCE

9. 12 houses were dealt with under Slum Clearance procedure during the year and are awaiting demolition.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS - HOUSING ACT 1969

A. DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

1.	Applications submitted to Local Authority during the year	10
2.	Applications rejected	Nil
3.	Applications approved	10
4.	Approximate average grant approved per house	£412.18
5.	Total number of houses approved for grant in area since inception of scheme.	185

B. STANDARD GRANTS

	during year	Total to date
1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	19	147
2. Number of houses so provided with		
(a) Bath or shower	6	96
(b) Wash hand basin	7	94
(c) Hot water supply	6	100
(d) Water closet	18	129
(e) Sink	3	71

RENT ACT 1957

No applications were received during the year for Certificates of Disrepair under the Act.

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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Licensing and use of special designations Untreated, Pasteurised, and Sterilized is under the control of Northumberland County Council, and sampling of milk undertaken by the County Public Health Inspector. There are 12 dealers in the Borough.

The following table shows the number of samples taken and results of tests applied, as supplied by the County Inspector.

CLASS OF MILK	No of Samples	Passed			Failed		
		M.B.	PHOS.	B10	M.B.	PHOS.	B10
Untreated	9	8			1		
Pasteurised	18	16	18		2		
Sterilized	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

M.B.: Methylene Blue Test

PHOS.: Phosphatase Test

B10:- Biological Test

FOOD PREMISES

At the end of the year, there were 136 premises where food is handled and sold, and the following table shows an analysis of the types of food premises by main classification, on the register.

MAIN CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER
Boarding houses	2
Butchers	11
Bakehouses	3
Confectioners	15
Cafes- Restaurants	14
Chemists	5
Cooked Meats	3
Fruit and Greengrocery	10
Fried Fish	3
Fresh Fish	1
Grocers	14
General Dealers	12
Hotels & licenced premises	21
School Kitchens	8

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ICE CREAM

The number of premises in the Borough registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the sale or sale and storage of ice cream was 28 at the end of the year. Sampling was carried out and all samples were satisfactory.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The following table shows the throughput of animals for the year:-

MONTH	CATTLE	SHEEP	PIGS	CALVES	TOTAL
Jan	145	797	100	32	1074
Feb	140	647	107	29	923
Mar	125	597	134	41	897
Apl	143	430	118	42	733
May	130	467	120	17	734
June	134	691	111	21	957
July	148	931	133	23	1235
Aug	149	973	127	40	1289
Sept	162	1055	152	52	1421
Oct	180	1084	147	46	1457
Nov	181	920	165	27	1293
Dec	168	778	295	23	1264
TOTALS	1805	9370	1709	393	13277

SLAUGHTERMENS LICENCES

Seven slaughtermens licences were renewed for 1970, six holders residing in the Borough. During the year, no offences or infringements of licences were noted or reported.

MEAT INSPECTIONS

All carcasses, viscera and offal were inspected and carcasses stamped before release, in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963. The following table gives some statistics of the items rejected as unfit for human consumption.

	Cattle Excl Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	1653	152	393	9370	1709
" inspected	1653	152	393	9370	1709
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>		2	45	32	
Whole carcasses condemned	3	77	6	39	2

	Cattle Excl Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	525	77	9	1120	444
Percentage of number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticercosis	31.3%	52%	3.8%	12.3%	26.3%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	11
Percentage of number affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.65%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The quantity of condemned meat and organs amounted to 7 tons 7 cwt 50 lbs. This was removed from the abattoir by a firm specialising in by-products, whose factory is outside of the Borough.

FOOD HYGIENE AND EDUCATIONAL WORK

Hygiene of food premises and travelling shops was given maximum possible attention during the year and it was found that considerable effort was being made in general to comply with Food Hygiene Regulations 1960. Contraventions where found were taken up with the proprietors of the premises. Inspections of food shops is an important duty and cannot be relaxed, for only by constant inspection, with discussion and advice to proprietors, managers and staffs can education in the field of good hygiene be harmoniously achieved.



