

[Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Nelson Borough.

Contributors

Nelson (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1947

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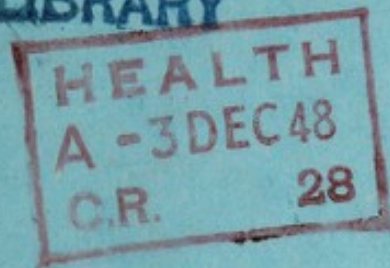
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BOROUGH OF NELSON

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1947

EDWARD LEE,
Medical Officer of Health.





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BOROUGH OF NELSON

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).

COUNCILLOR W. PENNINGTON (Vice-Chairman).

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR J. WIDDUP).

ALDERMAN W. BANNISTER.

„ F. CORK.

„ A. SMITH.

„ H. W. THROUP.

COUNCILLOR J. W. BUTTERFIELD.

„ E. BYWATER.

„ H. HAYTHORNTWAITE.

„ MRS. E. KAY.

„ A. SHACKLETON.

„ S. SHAW.

„ F. TAYLOR.

„ H. H. URSELL.

„ R. WILCOCK.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR J. WIDDUP).

ALDERMAN A. SMITH.

„ H. W. THROUP.

COUNCILLOR J. W. BUTTERFIELD.

„ H. HAYTHORNTWAITE.

„ MRS. E. KAY.

„ W. PENNINGTON.

„ S. SHAW.

MRS. V. WESTWELL.

MRS. V. WALKER.

Acting Medical Officer of Health	R. E. ROBINSON,
(to 30/6/47)	M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Temporary Medical Officer of Health	EDWARD LEE,
(From 1/7/47)	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	J. W. INGHAM,
	C.R.S.I., Food Certificate.
Assistant Inspector	S. HAYDOCK, C.R.S.I.
Chief Clerk	A. WILDMAN.
Clerk	N. GRIFFITHS.
Junior Clerk	G. WALTON.†
Temporary Junior Clerk	MISS G. SUTCLIFFE.
Health Visitors :	
	MISS F. M. FARRAR, S.R.N., S.C.M.
	MISS H. HARGREAVES, S.R.N., S.C.M.
	MISS M. TORKINGTON, S.R.N., S.C.M.*
Matron, Maternity Home :	
	MRS. P. M. BALLARD, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Consultant Obstetrician :	A. CALLAM, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.
Consultant Ophthalmologist :	
	KENNETH BROWN, D.O. (Oxon.), D.O.M.S.

† In H.M.F. * Part-time School Nurse.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
21 CARR ROAD,
NELSON.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for the year 1947.

For the first half of the year until the 30th June, Dr. R. E. Robinson, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., was acting as your Medical Officer of Health, from the 1st July onwards I took over the duties under an arrangement which your Council came to with the Lancashire County Council. I would in passing pay tribute to the efficient manner in which Dr. Robinson, often working under difficulties, maintained the services provided by the department and express my gratitude for the assistance which I received from him when I took over his duties.

This will be the last report on a full year's working of many of the services which you have provided. By the time the next report is published all the personal services, which you have so carefully built up over the years, will be administered by the Lancashire County Council and the Regional Hospital Board. If this means that the services of all other districts are to be brought up to the standards which you have set, then, apart from leaving you with a somewhat justifiable sense of frustration and regret, no great harm will be done, indeed, considerable benefit to the community will accrue. Of the personal services which are to be taken over, only the ante-natal scheme leaves gaps which it is to be hoped will be filled in the near future. This most important service, whilst theoretically adequate, is not in my opinion as efficient as it should be in that far too many women are going through pregnancy without adequate ante-natal supervision. During the course of the year you embarked on a comprehensive scheme for improving both the ante-natal services and the obstetrical service at Fern Lea Maternity Home; parts of this scheme, particularly those relating to the services at the Maternity Home, have since come into operation, but

unfortunately there has been as yet no improvement in the ante-natal services which will ensure earlier and more adequate supervision of a greater proportion of pregnant women.

The arrangement which your Council has made with the Lancashire County Council whereby the combined post of Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Nelson and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health has been occupied by one person, has worked well and no difficulties, from your Medical Officer's point of view, have been encountered.

With regard to the statistics presented in the report, the Birth Rate has increased again and has reached its highest level in Nelson since 1908. The Death Rate shows a slight fall, but deaths from Cardio-vascular and Malignant diseases continue to show a real and proportional increase, this is in a large measure due to the gradual ageing of the population, as a result more individuals are entering those age groups in which these diseases are most prevalent. The Infantile Mortality Rate, or deaths of infants under 1 year of age, shows an increase over last year and over the average for the 5 year period 1942-46. The significance of this increase is doubtful in view of the small numbers involved. The Infant Mortality Rate, however, is generally considered to be the most sensitive index of the social circumstances of the population to whom it refers and a continued rise in this rate should be regarded as a danger signal, and every endeavour made to elucidate and correct the causes.

Of the sanitary circumstances, atmospheric pollution by industrial and domestic smoke, a great deal of it unnecessary, continues to cast its shadow over the town bringing with it the various well known evils, not the least of which is the psychological effect the gloomy and cheerless outlook has on a population living in these hard working and austere years. In my opinion this problem can be solved only by the whole-hearted co-operation of all concerned, the local authority, industrialists and householders. I feel that industry can make the quickest contribution to the solution by availing itself more readily of the expert advice offered by the Ministry of Fuel and Power, and by insisting on a high degree of technical skill amongst its firemen.

The housing shortage is as acute as ever, the urgency of this problem is known to all, but no apology is made for emphasising it once more. The influence for good which satisfactory housing conditions could have on the mental and physical well-being of the population is immeasurable. Although few cases of statutory over-crowding have been reported, the standards of overcrowding as laid down by the Housing Act, 1936, are quite inadequate, and in general the ideal would be "one family, one house," the house to be of a suitable size, rent, and position for the family occupying it.

The year is notable in that no case of Diphtheria has occurred in the borough. It is quite certain that in immunisation we have now the means to control completely, safely, and easily, the disease as it now presents itself. The question as to whether or not the disease is brought under control, and even completely eliminated within the next decade, depends entirely on the unceasing zeal and enthusiasm with which this potent weapon is used. During the early summer, notifications of Infantile Paralysis throughout the country began to rise ominously, and it became obvious that an incidence unprecedented in this country was imminent. Fortunately the borough escaped lightly and only two cases occurred both of which recovered from the acute stage of the disease, although one is still under treatment for the resultant paralysis. There was no undue incidence of any of the other notifiable diseases.

I should like to express my appreciation to the whole of the staff of the department for the very willing co-operation which they have afforded to me and the services they have given, and in particular to Mr. J. W. Ingham whose local knowledge and wise counsel have been of so much value to me, and on whom has fallen the brunt of the work in the preparation of the material for this report.

In conclusion I would convey my gratitude to the Committee for the confidence they have shown in me, and the support which they have given to me.

I am,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARD LEE.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area in acres	3,466
Population—Census, 1931	38,306
Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population— mid-year, 1947	33,140
Number of inhabited houses—	
(a) Census, 1931	11,128
(b) End of 1947, according to rate books	11,582
Rate	17/6 in the £
Rateable value	£248,272
Sum represented by a penny rate	£983-7-3

The cost of the Health Services for the financial year 1947-48 was estimated at £14,032, which is equivalent to a rate of 14.27d. in the £.

There have been no noteworthy changes in the social conditions. The chief industries in the area are cotton and silk weaving along with the allied trades.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :	Males	Females	Total	Rate.
Total	332	305	637	20.1 per thousand of population.
Illegitimate	12	18	30	
Still Births :				
Total	8	3	11	1.7 per thousand births (live and still).
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths	257	240	497	14.9 per thousand of population.
Death of Infants under 1 year of age :				
Total	18	9	27	40 per thousand live births.
Legitimate	15	8	23	36 per thousand legitimate births.
Illegitimate	3	1	4	133 per thousand illegitimate births.
Maternal Deaths :				
Puerperal sepsis		1		1.47 per thousand total births (live and still).
Other puerperal causes		—		Nil.

There has been no unusual mortality during the year, nor have there been any causes of morbidity which have been specially noteworthy. It would not appear that occupational or environmental factors have had any undue prejudicial effect on the health of the population.

BIRTH RATE.

The live birth rate of 20.1 per 1,000 of population is an increase of 3.9 per 1,000 population on the rate for 1946, and an increase of 5.6 on the average rate for the 5 years 1942-1946. It is the highest birth rate in Nelson since 1908, when a rate of 20.7 was recorded, the indications are that it has reached its peak and it is expected that it will now begin to fall.

DEATH RATE.

During the year 419 deaths occurred in Nelson, but of these 26 were non-residents, on the other hand 104 Nelson residents died outside the borough. The corrected total for Nelson, is therefore, 497 deaths, 257 males and 240 females, and this gives a crude death rate of 14.9 per 1,000 population. Compared with the previous year, and with the average for the 5 years 1942-1946, the 1947 rate shows a decrease of 0.2 and 0.4 respectively. Analysis of the deaths according to causes, age at which death occurred, and the monthly incidence reveals

(a) Heart disease with 157 deaths and a death rate of 4.74 per 1,000 population was the chief individual cause of death. The next two main causes were intra-cranial vascular lesions with 74 deaths and rate of 2.23 per 1,000 population, and bronchitis with 48 deaths, a rate of 1.45 per 1,000 population.

There were 72 deaths from malignant disease giving a death rate of 2.16 per 1,000 population, 63 deaths from respiratory diseases (excluding pulmonary tuberculosis) giving a death rate of 1.90, 7 deaths from tuberculosis giving a death rate of 0.21.

The infectious disease rate for the year was 0.03, only 1 death from whooping cough coming into this category.

(b) Analysis of the deaths into age groups shows that out of the 497 deaths recorded, 232 or 46.7% were persons of 70 years of age or over, and 28 or 5.6% were of children under 5 years of age.

(c) The greatest number of deaths, 65, occurred in March, representing an annual death rate of 23.5 per 1,000 population, and the lowest, 26, in August, corresponding to an annual death rate of 9.4 per 1,000 population,

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

There were 27 deaths of infants under 1 year of age and this gives an infantile mortality rate for the year of 40 per 1,000 live births. This is an increase of 12 per 1,000 live births on the rate for the previous year, and an increase of 2 per 1,000 live births on the mean rate for the 5 years 1942-46.

A study of these deaths shows:—

(a) Age Incidence:

9 or 33.3% took place within 24 hours of birth, a further 9 deaths occurred between 1 day and 7 days from birth, giving 66.6% of the deaths during the first week of life. The total number of deaths under 1 month, the neo-natal deaths, was 20.

(b) Cause of Death:

6 deaths or 22.2% were due to prematurity, these included one instance of twin births. 14 deaths or 51.8% were due to congenital malformations, injury at birth, or diseases peculiar to infants. 3 deaths or 11.1% were due to chest disease. 1 death occurred from an infectious disease, leaving 3 deaths from other causes.

(c) Inquests:

There were 3 deaths during the year necessitating an inquest.

(d) Illegitimate Infants:

Included in the total of 27 deaths were 4 of illegitimate infants, and calculating the infantile mortality rate according to legitimate and illegitimate births, shows the legitimate infants a rate of 36 per 1,000 legitimate live births, and for illegitimate infants a rate of 133 per 1,000 live births.

It will be seen from these figures that neo-natal deaths associated with prematurity and congenital malformations form the hard core of infantile mortality. During the present century infant mortality has been reduced by 75%, this improvement is very largely due to a reduction in infant deaths between the ages of one month and one year, there has been no very marked corresponding improvement in the number of neo-natal deaths. Until such time as medical knowledge is

in a position to define the causes of congenital malformations and to prevent them, and until all pregnant women are receiving close and careful ante-natal supervision, it does not appear that much progress will be made in the control of neo-natal mortality.

The following table gives a comparison of various Nelson rates with corresponding rates in various parts of the country, the figures indicate the degree to which the Nelson rates are greater or less than those in the areas specified. A full table of comparison is included in the appendix to this report.

	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years
England and Wales ...	-0.4	-0.17	-2.9	-1	-5.8
126 County Boroughs	-3.2	-0.29	-1.9	-7	-8.0
148 Smaller Towns ...	-2.1	-0.21	-3.0	-4	-3.7
London	-2.6	-0.16	-2.1	-3	-4.8

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A small laboratory is attached to the Public Health Department in which examinations are carried out as aids to diagnosis, and chemical and bacteriological tests are performed on informal samples of milk. Specimens requiring examination for which this laboratory is not equipped are sent to the Burnley Public Health Laboratory, or other laboratories specialising in the particular investigation required.

In all a total of 558 specimens were either sent or obtained for examination, of which 17 were submitted to other laboratories for examination and report. A detailed list of the specimens is as follows:—

Throat and Nasal Swabs	59
Sputum	39
Eye Swabs	38
Pus Smears	38
Urine	167
Fæces	5
Semen	4

Cerebro-spinal Fluid	4
Pleural Effusion Fluid	2
Blood Films	10
Hair	13
Human Tissue	21
Animal Tissue or Pus	104
Milk Deposits	45
Water	4
Other Specimens	5

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For non-infectious cases, accident cases, and maternity cases the service is provided by the Nelson Corporation, three vehicles are in use, with a permanent staff of 4. The depot for the service is situated in the Gas Works Yard off Leeds Road. This service is not confined to the limits of the borough, but is available to the residents of Barrowford, Brierfield and the surrounding area of the Burnley Rural District. During the year a total of 3,468 patients were conveyed, the mileage covered by the vehicles being 21,140.

Removal of infectious cases is undertaken by the Burnley Joint Hospital Board.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

During the year no call was made on the District Nursing Association, under the existing arrangement whereby nursing assistance is given in cases of Measles with complications, Puerperal Pyrexia, and Ophthalmia Neonatorum is requested by the medical practitioner.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The following are the clinics and treatment centres available to the residents of Nelson.

Clinic.	Address.	Day and time open.
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre	9 Carr Road	Wednesdays 2-0—4-0 p.m. Fridays 2-0—4-0 p.m.
Ante-natal Clinics	Fern Lea Maternity Home	Mondays 2-0—4-0 p.m. 6-0—8-0 p.m.
	9 Carr Road	Thursdays 2-0—4-0 p.m. Tuesdays 2-0—4-0 p.m. Thursdays 2-0—4-0 p.m.
School Clinic	11 Carr Road	Weekdays.
Orthopaedic Clinic	11 Carr Road	Fridays.
Child Guidance Clinic	Blackburn	By appointment.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	64 Carr Road	Tuesdays and Fridays.
Venereal Disease	Victoria Hospital, Burnley	Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

HOSPITALS.

One voluntary hospital, Reedyford Memorial Hospital, is situated in Nelson and beds are available for general medical and surgical cases. Other general medical and surgical cases, and abnormal maternity cases are usually admitted to either the Victoria Hospital, the Municipal Hospital, or Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley.

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Marsden Road Infectious Diseases Hospital, Burnley, where necessary.

NURSING HOMES.

The Lancashire County Council is the local authority for the control and registration of private Nursing Homes. There are, however, no homes of this type in Nelson.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no change in the source of the public water supply during the year.

The source of the supply is upland surface water and springs. There are two areas of supply, one on the east side of the town and collected in Coldwell Reservoirs, and one on the west side collected in the Ogden Reservoirs. Pressure filters and a chlorination plant are installed at both groups of reservoirs.

The average daily consumption of water in the whole of the area supplied, was 2,101,463 gallons averaging 43.9 gallons per head. This, however, includes compensation water discharged from Coldwell Reservoir.

Frequent inspection is made of the gathering grounds to ensure freedom from obvious sources of pollution, and samples of raw water, and the water when going into supply, are regularly submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. During the year these examinations (48 bacteriological and 4 chemical) all showed satisfactory results.

A slight plumbo solvent action is found in the raw water but this is treated and eliminated, tests for this purpose showing the results to be satisfactory.

There are approximately 250 houses in the town with an inadequate water supply, due to groups of these houses being supplied by an inefficient joint service pipe. During the year 42 of these houses have been provided with a separate service pipe, under a scheme by which the corporation gives financial assistance to the owner towards the cost of the work being carried out. Since this scheme was inaugurated 460 rows of houses have been dealt with.

The supply to all the houses in Nelson is direct, none are supplied by standpipe.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extension of the sewage plant has taken place during the year, the only work executed being the rebuilding of a filter.

The treatment is by means of screens, detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, percolating filter, and humus tanks. The final effluent is discharged into Pendle Water. Sludge from the settling tanks is pumped into storage tanks, where it is digested. The digested sludge is spread in autumn and winter months on adjoining farm land.

The estimated dry weather flow of sewage is 1,750,000 gallons per day. The water carriage system is in use throughout the town, and the works are situated on the outskirts, and in the lowest area of the district. There is a natural fall to the works and delivery is by a high level gravitating sewer. One small low lying area is provided with a low level sewer and the contents of this are emptied into the high level sewer by means of automatic ejections at the works.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of privy middens (in town)	None
Number of pail closets	46
Number of fresh water closets	5927
Number of waste water closets	7554
Number of trough closets	None
Number of dry ashpits	19
Number of movable ashbins	12,459
Conversions during the year:	
Waste water closets to fresh water closets	69
Dry ashpits to movable ashbins	5

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Public cleansing is carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Cleansing Superintendent. Household refuse is collected weekly from the dustbins and removed in covered vehicles to the Destructor Works, Charles Street. Disposal is by separation, screening and salvage. Screened dust and clinker residue are tipped. Material not worthy of salvage, and organic or vegetable matter not suitable for conversion to a saleable product for animal feeding or as a fertiliser, is incinerated. Street cleansing and street gully emptying are carried out by motor vehicles specially designed for the purpose and the debris disposed of by controlled tipping.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

A summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year is as follows:—

No. of complaints of nuisances received and investigated	221
No. of visits to premises in general	2,703
No. of visits re infectious diseases	382
No. of inspections: Stables	133
Licensed premises	20
Bakehouses	128
Workshops and factories	67
Meat shops and stalls	256
Dairies and cowsheds	26
Offensive trades	50
Ice cream manufacturers	29
No. of defects or nuisances discovered	441
No. of defects or nuisances abated	398
No. of verbal notices given	128
No. of informal notices sent	75
No. of legal notices sent	9
No. of smoke observations	21

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

During the year 21 smoke observations were taken, but no excessive emission of black smoke was recorded. The average result of these observations based on a 30 minutes duration

would be Black Smoke 8 seconds; Moderate Smoke 2 minutes 50 seconds; Light Smoke 16 minutes 2 seconds; and Clear 10 minutes 54 seconds. The prescribed limit for the emission of black smoke is 5 minutes in 30 minutes.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no Camping Sites, either military or civilian, within the borough.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Rivers Pollution Acts are administered by the Ribble Joint Committee.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is one Public Baths with swimming pools and slipper baths for males and females and, in addition there is one Open Air Swimming Pool situated in Marsden Park. These baths and the pool are under the corporation control, supervision being exercised by the Borough Water Engineer. Filtration and chlorination plants are in operation at both premises.

DISINFESTATION.

8 houses, none of which were Council houses, have been treated during the year for insect infestation.

D.D.T. sprays and D.D.T. fumigants are used for this purpose and have been found to be most effective. The work is carried out by direct labour.

SCHOOLS.

In the aggregate the sanitary condition of the schools could be classed as fair. Each school is provided with town's water.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Only one offensive trade, gut scraping, is carried on within the borough.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(i) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health;

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Legal Action
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	69	42	...	...
Factories not included above in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	273	152	...	...
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced	1	...	...	...
Total	343	194	...	...

(ii) Cases in which defects were found :

Defects	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Legal Action
Want of cleanliness	6	6	...	3	...
Defective sanitary conveniences	7	7	...	2	...
Sanitary conveniences not separate for sexes	2	2	...	2	...
Other offences	3	3	...	2	...
Total	18	18	...	9	...

(iii) Outwork: Only one notification of outworkers has been received, the nature of the work being garment making.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is no Common Lodging House in Nelson, nor are any houses registered as being let in lodgings. No action has been found necessary either in regard to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., or to underground sleeping rooms.

CANAL BOATS.

No inspections are made of Canal Boats.

RAG FLOCKS.

There are no premises in the district in which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

	Prefabricated	Traditional Permanent
(i) By Local Authority	...	22
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	7

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year :

(i) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects	218
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	371
(ii) Number of dwellinghouses included above and inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations	Nil
(iii) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(iv) Number of dwellinghouses found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	131

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	148
---	-----

Action under statutory powers :

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which legal notices were served under Housing Act, 1936	12
--	----

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of notice by owners	11
---	----

By local authority in default of owners Nil

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which legal notices were served under Public Health Acts	1
---	---

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of notice by owner	1
--	---

Proceedings under sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936 (Demolition)	Nil
Proceedings under section 12 Housing Act, (Underground rooms)	Nil
Overcrowding :	
Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at end of year according to Housing Act, 1936	Not Known
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	6

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The standard of the houses generally is good, the majority being of the through terrace type. It is found in the inspections that the majority of the defects are due to lack of repairs and maintenance aggravated by the shortage of labour and materials. As a result of these shortages difficulties have been experienced in getting the necessary work done to comply with informal notices sent out.

Defects found :

A summary of the housing defects found during the year :	
Dampness due to defective roof, troughing or fall pipes	102
Defective floors	6
Defective plastering on walls or ceilings	11
Defective windows	5
Defective fire ranges	7
Defective yard surface	1
Defective drains, W.C's, or W.W.C's	55
Water leakages	9
Inadequate water supply	1
Defective artificial lighting	3

Overcrowding :

Six visits have been made relative to overcrowding. In certain cases the complaint is made with a view to getting prior consideration for an application for a municipal house. There are no doubt many houses in the town in which two or perhaps more families are living, and this condition will obtain until such times as the supply of houses will meet the demand.

Water supply and Sanitary Accommodation :

In the built up area in the borough each house is provided with an internal water supply. There are, however, still a few rows of houses in which there is a shortage of supply, but this is due to the inadequacy of a common service pipe. A scheme is in operation for dealing with these houses, the Water Department undertaking the work as opportunity arises. The only houses not having a separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation are the back to back houses. These, of which there are approximately 107 in the borough, are not confined to any one district, but are scattered throughout the area.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The register of cowkeepers and dairymen is amended from time to time as changes occur. At the end of the year there were on the register

(a) Cowkeepers who do not retail milk in the borough	4
(b) Cowkeepers who dispose of their milk wholesale	7
(c) Cowkeepers and milk purveyors in the borough...	15
(d) Milk purveyors only	10
(e) Cowkeepers in other areas who are milk purveyors in Nelson	32

Licences for the production of designated milk are issued by the County Council. There is only one farmstead in the borough so licensed, and this is for the production of milk from a tubercular tested herd. The milk from these premises is not retailed by the producer. Tuberculin tested, accredited and pasteurised milk is retailed within the borough, but the production is on premises outside Nelson. The dairies and cowsheds within the borough are subjected to periodic inspection and taking an average their condition can be classed as fair.

Throughout the year informal samples of milk are taken and tests carried out in the Public Health Laboratory to determine the quality of the milk as it is retailed to the customers.

A summary of the various tests made during the year is :—

(a) Milk Fat	Total number tested 274	Number in which a deficiency was found	11
(b) Solids, not fat	Total number tested 273	Number in which a deficiency was found	5
(c) Visible Cleanliness..	Total number tested 273	Number found not to be satisfactory	4
(d) Methylene Blue Test	Total number tested 274	Number found which failed to reach the standard adopted, i.e., $4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. in summer and $5\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. in winter	56
(e) Coliform Test	Total number tested 272	Number found to contain coliform bacilli in 0.01 c.c.	66
(f) Resazurin Test for keeping quality ...	Total number tested 274	Number found to be	
		Excellent	51
		Very good	110
		Good	63
		Fair	21
		Poor	10
		Bad	2
		Very bad	17
(g) Tubercle Bacilli	Total number tested 274	Number found to contain Tubercle Bacilli	Nil

Of the above samples, 148 were purchased, 67 were obtained from the various schools in the area and 63 were submitted for testing. Following the tests a report is sent to the vendor giving the results of the various tests to which the milk has been subjected, and, if unsatisfactory results are shown arrangements are made for further samples to be tested to note if any improvement has been effected.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The administration of the Food and Drugs Acts is undertaken by the Lancashire County Council and the County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied me with the

following particulars of the samples taken by his officer in the Borough of Nelson.

Total number of samples taken	176
Milk	110
Lard	3
Fish paste	2
Beef paste	1
Jam	3
Liquorice powder	3
Bread	3
Meat soup	2
Vegetable soup	1
Cream of tartar	6
Pork sausages	1
Beef sausages	4
Butter	2
Margarine	2
Raisins	1
Castor oil	2
Ovaltine	1
Jelly crystals	1
Sweets	2
Dried eggs	1
Prunes	1
Coffee	2
Glycerine	2
Camphorated oil	2
Ice cream	2
Semolina	2
Gelatine	2
Cheese	3
Jelly	3
Epsom salts	3
Bicarbonate of soda	3

Of the above samples the following were certified by the County Analyst as failing to reach the required standard.

Sample.	Result.	Action.
1 sample of milk	5% deficient in milk fat	Further samples obtained.
1 sample of milk	5% deficient in milk fat	Vendor notified.
1 sample of lard	Consisted of cooking fat	Vendor notified.
1 sample of jam	Deficient 2.1% soluble solids...	Manufacturers notified.
1 sample pork sausage	Contained 39 parts per million sulphite preservative with- out declaration	Vendor notified.
1 sample beef sausage (informal)	Deficient 37% minimum percentage of meat	Formal sample obtained.
1 sample beef sausage (formal)	Deficient 51% minimum percentage of meat	Prosecution. Vendor fined £5 with £3-7-0 costs.
1 sample jelly	No declaration of ingredients— Labelling of Food Order offence	Packers communicated with.
1 sample beef sausage (informal)	Deficient 54% minimum percentage of meat	Formal sample obtained.
1 sample beef sausage (formal)	Deficient 57% minimum percentage of meat	Prosecution. Vendor fined £5 with £3-3-0 costs.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are no licensed slaughter houses in Nelson. Centralised slaughtering for the area is carried out at Colne abattoirs. A small number of pigs, 29, have been slaughtered on farm premises under certificate issued by the Ministry of Food. These pigs have all been subject to inspection.

Meat stalls, shops and bakehouses have all been regularly inspected throughout the year.

No seizure of unsound food has been made but the following articles have been submitted for examination, and certificates issued to the effect that they were found to be unfit for human consumption.

344 tins of milk	approximate quantity 274½ pints.
364 containers vegetables	approximate quantity 478 lbs.
178 containers meat products	approximate quantity 166½ lbs.
36 containers fish	approximate quantity 24½ lbs.
40 containers fruit	approximate quantity 110 lbs.
48 containers jam	approximate quantity 103½ lbs.
4 containers fruit juice	approximate quantity 5¼ lbs.
1 container pudding	approximate quantity ¾ lb.
12 containers shredded wheat	
Assorted fish	560 lbs.
Bacon	23¼ lbs.

Butter	14½ lbs.
Cheese	5 lbs.
Fowl	2 lbs.
Flour	140 lbs.
Raisins	65 lbs.
Cooking fat	3½ lbs.

FOOD POISONING.

One isolated case of food poisoning occurred during the year. Investigation showed *S typhi-murium* (*B. aertrycke*) to be the infecting organism, but it was not possible to obtain any article of food for examination in order to trace the source of illness. From enquiries made, it was thought probable that other cases would occur, but this did not happen. The patient was removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Burnley for treatment and eventually discharged therefrom as cured.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 436 cases were notified under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, a decrease of 29 on the number notified during 1946. A detailed comparison with the previous year is:—

	Cases notified.		Cases removed to hospital.		Deaths.	
	1947.	1946.	1947.	1946.	1947.	1946.
Scarlet Fever	17	17	6	8	—	—
Diphtheria	—	1	—	1	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—
Measles	242	341	—	3	—	—
Whooping Cough	116	32	4	—	1	—
Pneumonia	22	21	1	1	10	13
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	3	1	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	2	1	2	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis	1	—	1	—	—	1
Acute Polio-encephalitis	1	—	1	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	2	—	2	—	—
Erysipelas	3	7	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	28	23	24	7	12
Non-pulmonary do.	5	12	4	1	—	3

Excluding tuberculosis, there were in all 27 patients removed to the Marsden Road Infectious Diseases Hospital, but in 5 cases the disease was found to be non-infectious and the notifications were withdrawn. These include 2 cases of suspected Diphtheria, 1 case of suspected Cerebro-spinal Meningitis and 2 cases of suspected Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis. In the remaining 22 cases there were 3 cases of Pemphigus and 1 of Food Poisoning.

MEASLES.

At the beginning of the year measles was very prevalent, an epidemic which had commenced about September, 1946, running its usual course. During the first quarter 216 cases were reported, but after this there were only 26 cases notified during the rest of the year. It appeared to be a mild form of the disease, no deaths occurred, no removal to hospital was requested, nor was any application made for nursing assistance.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Sporadic cases of this disease were reported during the first quarter, but the number considerably increased during the second quarter. In the quarter ending September, the number reported was practically equivalent to the first quarter of the year, i.e., 23 and 22, whereas during the last quarter only 4 cases were reported. There were 4 cases removed to hospital due to complications supervening and 1 death occurred.

In regard to both Measles and Whooping Cough, whilst notifications received give an indication of the prevalence of these diseases, they do not give a true picture of the number of cases occurring. Unlike other infectious diseases where there is an onus on the head of the family to notify any cases of the disease occurring in his household, in the case of Measles and Whooping Cough he has no such responsibility and this rests solely with the medical practitioner in attendance, and if no medical practitioner is called in, no notification is received.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases reported, 17, was the same as in 1946. Six cases were removed to hospital as adequate isolation could not be carried out at home. The cases were sporadic and in

only one instance, where three children in one house were notified, could any connection be traced to a known case. 13 patients were schoolchildren from 6 different schools.

DIPHTHERIA.

No case of this disease occurred during the year. Two patients were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, suspected to be suffering from Diphtheria, but the diagnosis was not confirmed and the notifications were subsequently withdrawn.

Anti-diphtheretic serum is kept at the Police Station, Nelson, so that it may be available at any time when required. During the year only two phials, each of 8,000 units, were used. Regular sessions have been held throughout 1947 for immunisation against diphtheria, and in conjunction with the school medical inspections, a special effort was commenced towards the end of the year to induce parents to agree to the school children receiving an additional booster dose of the prophylactic agent where primary immunisation had been carried out in infancy. By the end of December, 179 children of age ranging from 4 years to 14 years had received a supplementary inoculation.

The number of infants or children who received the primary artificial immunisation under the local authority's scheme was 399. Of these 388 were under 5 years of age and 11 children of school age.

From the figures available, which include 42 children known to have had private treatment, it is estimated that 3,996 children have been immunised since the scheme was inaugurated. Of these 1,151 are under 5 years of age, and 2,845 over 5 but under 15 years of age. These figures represent 49.5% and 82.2% of the estimated population in the respective age groups.

The following table shows the number of persons inoculated annually from 1941—1947 at the immunisation sessions arranged by the local authority.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of persons inoculated annually 1941-1947.

Ages	Year							Total inoculated in each Group at 31/12/1947
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	
0 —	4	7	1	—	—	—	23	Under 5 years old on 31/12/1947 :
1 —	41	216	192	186	205	168	291	
2 —	58	128	39	125	74	74	56	
3 —	67	134	27	40	20	13	9	
4 —	100	112	45	35	10	13	9	
5 —	156	149	29	24	14	9	4	Over 5 but under 15 years on 31/12/1947 :
6 —	153	93	18	22	5	9	2	
7 —	167	80	20	11	2	2	2	
8 —	172	102	16	13	1	2	2	
9 —	168	96	8	14	1	—	—	
10 —	182	104	12	7	1	1	1	
11 —	153	84	10	9	2	—	—	
12 —	129	91	17	5	1	—	—	
13 —	118	75	9	3	—	—	—	
14 —	3	12	4	10	—	—	—	
15 and over	—	—	—	11	2	—	—	15 years and over on 31/12/1947 : 1190
Totals	1671	1483	447	515	338	291	899	All ages : 5144

INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

During the year 3 cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis and 1 case of Acute Polio-encephalitis were reported, but of these 3 cases of Acute Anterior Polio-myelitis though removed to hospital, were found to be non-infectious and the notifications were subsequently withdrawn. The 2 definite cases were both children, one a boy of 5 years—Acute Anterior Polio-myelitis—who, after treatment in the Infectious Diseases Hospital was transferred to the Biddulph Orthopædic Hospital for specialist treatment to combat the complications set up by the disease, the other was a boy of 7 years—Acute Polio-encephalitis—who recovered completely in the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of infectious diseases in age groups.

Disease.	Total cases	Age Periods.													No. rem'd to hosp'l,	Deaths
		Under 1		1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever	17	—	—	1	1	2	10	1	3	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
Para-typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Measles	242	6	25	34	35	51	83	3	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	116	16	16	12	16	20	23	3	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	1
Pneumonia	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	11	4	10	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	3	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Total	410	23	41	47	51	73	129	7	3	14	4	12	6	17	12	12

The Registrar General has issued a table showing for England and Wales and sub-divisions of the country the attack rate per 1,000 of population, for certain of the infectious diseases and this is submitted along with the attack rate for Nelson for comparison.

	England and Wales	126 County boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Nelson
RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.					
Notifications :					
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.06
Scarlet fever	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	0.51
Whooping cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	3.50
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.00
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.09
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	7.30
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	0.66

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Disinfection by means of formalin spray and formaldehyde fumigation is carried out in cases of all infectious diseases except Measles, Whooping Cough or Pneumonia. There are, however, many requests for premises to be fumigated and bedding disinfected following other illnesses or deaths. During the year, 46 premises involving 185 rooms have been fumigated and 171 articles of wearing apparel, 808 articles of bedding and 122 miscellaneous articles have been disinfected. Disinfection of bedding, etc., is done by steam, the apparatus being situated at the Destructor Works, Charles Street.

The value of the formalin spray and formaldehyde fumigation as an efficient means of disinfection of rooms or premises is extremely doubtful. It has, however, a good psychological effect, and, in practice, it usually ensures that the rooms or premises are thoroughly cleaned out subsequently, which in itself justifies its continued use.

TUBERCULOSIS.

21 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 5 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis have been notified during the year. 7 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis have occurred, the death rate from tuberculosis for the year being 0.21 per 1,000 of population.

Dr. G. Barker Charnock the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for this area has kindly supplied the following particulars relative to Nelson patients. "Of 158 new patients, 148 of whom were examined at the dispensary and 10 at their homes, 22 were found to be suffering from some form of tuberculosis, the remainder being discharged after observation as non-tuberculous; there were 380 re-examinations of 'old' cases. With regard to treatment, 8 early cases were admitted to sanatorium, 21 advanced cases to hospital, and 17 cases of surgical tuberculosis to general or special hospitals; X-ray examinations totalled 293. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor made 25 primary and 786 subsequent visits to patients. During the year 2 pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary cases were written off as recovered."

Analysis of the new cases and the mortality during 1947 according to age, is as follows:—

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years .	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years .	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 to 35 years .	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 to 45 years .	3	3	—	1	1	1	—	—
45 to 55 years .	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65 years .	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
Totals	12	9	2	3	3	4	—	—

At the end of the year there were on the register for Nelson 107 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (71 males and 36 females) and 62 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (18 males and 44 females).

There does not appear to be any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district. Notification of this disease is generally efficient and there has been no incidence of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

No action has been necessary under the 1925 Regulations dealing with tuberculous employees in the milk trade, nor has there been any action under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172, for compulsory removal to hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This work is carried out by the local authority under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. Two whole-time and one part-time Health Visitors are engaged, the work of the part-time nurse being divided between the Infant Welfare Service and the School Medical Service. There have been no changes or developments during the year in the arrangements for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under five years of age. A list of the Clinics or Centres held in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare work is given earlier in the report.

The services of a consultant obstetrician have been available at the request of a medical practitioner for any abnormality arising at any stage of pregnancy, occurring either in the Maternity Home or at the home of the patient. He is also the consultant appointed under the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations of 1939. During the year the services of the consultant were requested on 28 occasions.

During the year 616 births were notified under the Notification of Births Act, and of these 607 were live births and 9 were still births. These figures include three cases of twin births.

HEALTH VISITORS.

Number of visits paid by Health Visitors

(1) To expectant mothers	First visits	152
	Total visits	250
(2) To children under 1 year of age	First visits	667
	Total visits	2886

- (3) To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years
Total visits 2795
- (4) Special visits paid to the homes with reference to
Home Helps, Rebates, etc. Total visits 340
- (5) Ineffectual visits 579

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

Total number of children under 5 years of age who first attended at the Centre and who on that date of their first attendance were:—

- (1) Under 1 year of age 397
- (2) Over 1 year of age 76

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended the Centre during the year and who at the end of the year were:—

- (1) Under 1 year of age 346
- (2) Over 1 year of age 456

Total attendances made by children:—

- (1) Under 1 year of age 3752
- (2) Over 1 year of age 1353

Number of sessions held during the year 97

Average attendance per session:—

- (1) Children under 1 year of age 38.7
- (2) Children over 1 year of age 13.9

NURSERY ACCOMMODATION.

There are no day or residential nurseries under the control of the Health Committee, nor are there any women registered as daily guardians.

ANTE-NATAL SERVICES.

Total number of women who attended at the clinics

provided and maintained by the Council 386

Total number of attendances made 2507

Number of sessions held 103

Average number attending per session 24

During the year any abnormal obstetrical case seen at the Ante-natal Clinic by the matron of the Maternity Home has been referred by her to the patient's own Medical Practitioner.

Additional Ante-natal Clinics have been held weekly during the year at the Infant Welfare premises. These are conducted

- (a) by the midwives employed by the Lancashire County Council for the benefit of expectant mothers who have made arrangements for their confinement to take place at home.
- (b) by the Health Visitors for the benefit of expectant mothers for whom arrangements have been made for their admission to the Langroyd Maternity Home, Colne.

In each instance any cases in which any abnormalities arose were referred to their own medical practitioner for advice and treatment.

MATERNITY HOME.

Name and address of institution: Fern Lea Maternity Home,
Netherfield Road, Nelson.

Whether Municipal or Voluntary: Municipal.

Number of maternity beds (exclusive of isolation and labour beds) 10

Number of maternity cases admitted during the year ... 255

There are no beds reserved for expectant mothers in need of hospital treatment.

Average duration of stay 10 days

Number of cases delivered by

(a) Midwives 238

(b) Doctors 17

Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought

by a midwife in an emergency 64

Number of cases admitted after delivery 2

Number of cases notified as

(a) Puerperal Fever Nil

(b) Puerperal Pyrexia 1

Number of cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum Nil

Number of infants who have at any time received a supplementary or complimentary feed whilst in the home (excluding those given during the first three or four days whilst breast feeding is being established) 7

Number of infants wholly breast fed on leaving the institution 242

Number of cases notified as Ophthalmia Neonatorum Nil

Number of maternal deaths Nil

Number of still births 3

Causes: (i) Intra-uterine asphyxia.

(ii) Macerated foetus.

(iii) do.

Number of infant deaths within 10 days of birth 8

Cause of death in each case:

(i) Cardiac failure after difficult breech delivery with extended head.

(ii) Debility. Premature birth.

(iii) do. do.

(iv) Microcephalus.

(v) Heart failure. Meningocele.

(vi) Congenital heart disease.

(vii) Heart failure. Cerebral hæmorrhage.

(viii) Asphyxia pallida. Breech delivery.

Included in the 255 maternity cases admitted to the Fern Lea Maternity Home during the year were 3 patients who were non-residents of Nelson.

The arrangement with the West Riding County Council to admit patients from Nelson into the Langroyd Maternity Home, Colne, providing accommodation was available, has operated throughout the year and 38 patients have been admitted to this Home from Nelson.

Patients with obstetrical abnormalities were admitted into the Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley. During the year 16 patients from Nelson have received treatment at this hospital.

From the above figures it is estimated that approximately 50% of the confinements took place either in the Maternity Homes or Hospital, and 50% in the home of the patient.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

One maternal death occurred during the year, the cause of death being pulmonary embolism due to confinement. The death occurred in a maternity home. This one death gives a Maternal Mortality Rate for the year of 1.47 per 1,000 total (live and still) births. The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales during 1947 was 1.17 per 1,000 total births.

PREMATURE INFANTS.

The number of premature babies notified during 1947 whose mother is normally resident within the council's area was 34. Of these 13 were born at home and 21 in hospital or maternity home. As regards the 13 born at home, 2 were removed to hospital and the remainder were nursed entirely at home. 3 died during the first 24 hours, including 1 baby who was removed to hospital, and at the end of the first month there were 10 survivors. In the case of the 21 born in hospital or the maternity home, 2 died within 24 hours, and at the end of the first month there were 17 survivors.

Special equipment is provided for use by the midwife in attendance on those babies nursed at home and, should hospital treatment be necessary special facilities have been provided for their transfer either to the Bank Hall Maternity Hospital or the Municipal Hospital, Burnley.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum following domiciliary confinement, and 4 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, 3 in domiciliary and 1 in institutional confinements, have been reported. 2 of the 3 latter domiciliary cases were removed to hospital for treatment. There were no deaths resulting from these infections, and in the case of ophthalmia neonatorum there was no impairment of vision.

The following figures give a comparison of the incidence of Puerperal Pyrexia throughout the country.

England and Wales ...	7.16	per 1,000 total births (live & still).
126 County Boroughs...	8.99	do. do.
148 Smaller Towns ...	6.27	do. do.
London Admin. C'ty	6.94	do. do.
Nelson	5.90	do. do.

HOME HELPS.

There were six Home Helps employed by the Council at the end of the year, an increase of one compared with the position at the end of 1946. Under your authority's scheme there have been 121 cases during the year in which home help has been provided. All these were maternity cases. The Home Helps work under the instructions of and supervision by the Health Visitors and undertake domestic duties only.

MOTHER AND BABY HOMES.

There are no Homes or Hostels in the Borough provided either by the Council or Voluntary Associations for the admission of ante-natal or post-natal mothers or their babies.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

No special social worker has been appointed either by the Council or in combination with any other Welfare Authority for the purpose of Ministry of Health Circular 2866. During the year 30 illegitimate births (all live births) were registered, this being 4.4% of the total births (live and still). Special supervision by the Health Visitors is exercised in all cases of illegitimate babies.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

There were 2 children on the register at the end of the year as being under the care of foster mothers, as defined by Section 206 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Each Health Visitor is appointed as Child Protection Visitor for supervisory purposes. During the year no proceedings have been taken or orders applied for.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The meteorological station is situated in the grounds of the Cemetery, Walton Lane. Daily readings have been taken throughout the year and the following figures are of interest:—

Barometer at M.S.L.	Highest reading	1040.8 mb. on 11th Dec.
	Lowest reading	980.2 mb. on 23rd Mar.
	Mean for the year	1014.5 mb.
Maximum in the shade ...	Highest reading	83.7° on 2nd June and 16th August.
	Lowest reading	24.3° on 29th January.
	Mean for the year	53.0°
Minimum in the shade ...	Highest reading	61.2° on 16th Sept.
	Lowest reading	9.7° on 23rd February.
	Mean for the year	41.0°
Bright sunshine	No. of days recording sunshine	258
	Total amount for the year	1117.4 hours
	Average per day throughout the year ...	.06 hours
Rainfall	Number of days on which rain occurred	202
	Total rainfall for the year	42.62 inches
	Greatest fall in 1 day	2.50 inches on 11th Nov.
Number of days with rainfall of		
0.01 to 0.03 inches		57
Number of days with rainfall of		
0.04 inches or more		145

CONCLUSION.

In the compilation of this report I am indebted to the undermentioned officials for information relative to work outside my control, and I wish to place on record my appreciation of the assistance they have rendered in enabling me to place before you the Annual Report for the year 1947.

Dr. F. Hall, County Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. G. Barker Charnock, County Consultant Tuberculosis Officer.

Mr. F. V. Alexander, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Nelson.

Mr. J. Gilchrist Smith, Borough Water Engineer, Nelson.

Mr. N. Sceats, Borough Treasurer, Nelson.

Mr. V. Robinson, Borough Cleansing Superintendent, Nelson.

APPENDIX I.

Causes of Death with Corresponding Rates.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total	Death Rate
All causes.	257	240	497	14.9
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—	0.00
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	0.00
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—	0.00
4. Whooping cough	—	1	1	0.03
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	0.00
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	4	7	0.21
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—	0.00
8. Syphilitic disease	—	1	1	0.03
9. Influenza	—	—	—	0.00
10. Measles	—	—	—	0.00
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—	0.00
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—	0.00
13M. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only)	5	—	5	0.15
13F. Cancer of uterus	—	8	8	0.24
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	3	7	0.21
15. Cancer of breast	—	11	11	0.33
16. Cancer of all other sites	20	21	41	1.23
17. Diabetes	2	1	3	0.09
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	32	42	74	2.23
19. Heart disease	89	68	157	4.74
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system	1	4	5	0.15
21. Bronchitis	30	18	48	1.45
22. Pneumonia	5	5	10	0.30
23. Other respiratory diseases	2	3	5	0.15
24. Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	3	—	3	0.09
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	—	—	—	0.00
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—	0.00
27. Other digestive diseases	4	5	9	0.27
28. Nephritis	8	10	18	0.54
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	1	1	0.03
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—	0.00
31. Premature birth	5	1	6	0.18
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	8	6	14	0.42
33. Suicide	7	2	9	0.27
34. Road traffic accidents	2	2	4	0.12
35. Other violent causes	5	6	11	0.33
36. All other causes	22	17	39	1.17

APPENDIX II.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case Rates for certain infectious diseases in the year 1947.

	England and Wales	126 County boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Nelson
RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.					
Live births	20.5*	23.3	22.2	22.7	20.1
Still births	0.50*	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.33
Deaths :					
All causes	12.0*	13.0	11.9	12.8	14.9
Typhoid & paratyphoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
RATES PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS.					
Deaths under one year of age	41	47	36	37	40
Deaths from Diarrhoea and enteritis, under 2 years of age	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8	0.0

* Rates per 1000 Total Population.

APPENDIX III.

Comparison of various Nelson rates for 1947 with those for 1946 and the mean of the 5 years 1942-1946.

	Per 1,000 of estimated population.				Maternal mortality rate.		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.
	Live birth rate.	Crude death rate.	Death rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system.	Death rate from cancer.	Per 1,000 live births.	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	
Mean of five years 1942-1946	14.5	15.3	0.39	2.23	0.88	0.85	38
1946	16.2	15.1	0.36	2.05	Nil	Nil	28
1947	20.1	14.9	0.21	2.17	1.49	1.47	40
Increase or decrease of 1947 rates on 5 years' average 1942-1946	+5.6	-0.4	-0.18	-0.06	+0.61	+0.62	+2
Increase or decrease of 1947 rates on 1946	+3.9	-0.2	-0.15	+0.12	+1.49	+1.47	+12



