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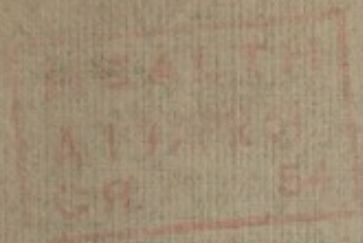
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BOROUGH OF NELSON

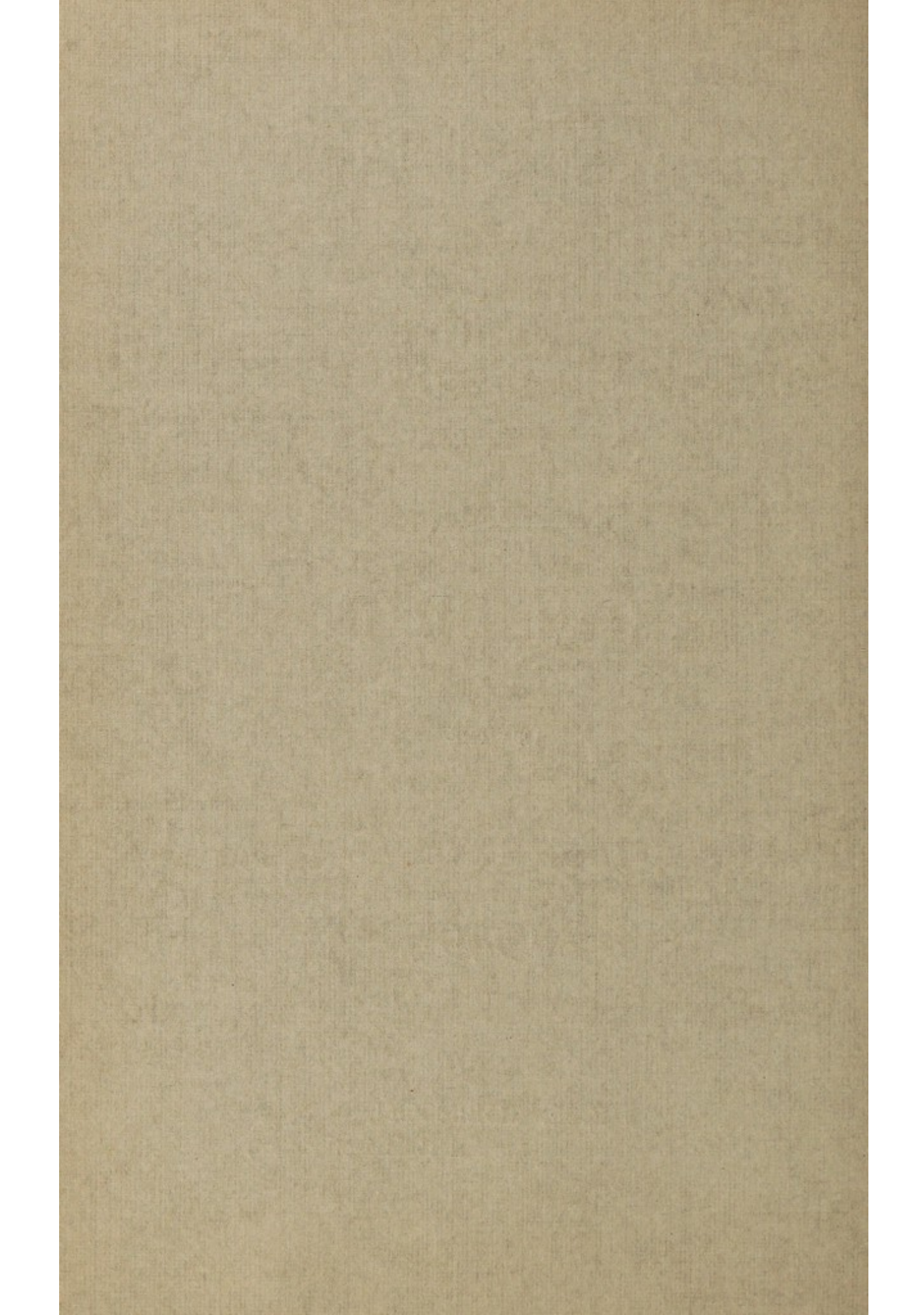
REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1949

R. E. ROBINSON,
Medical Officer of Health,





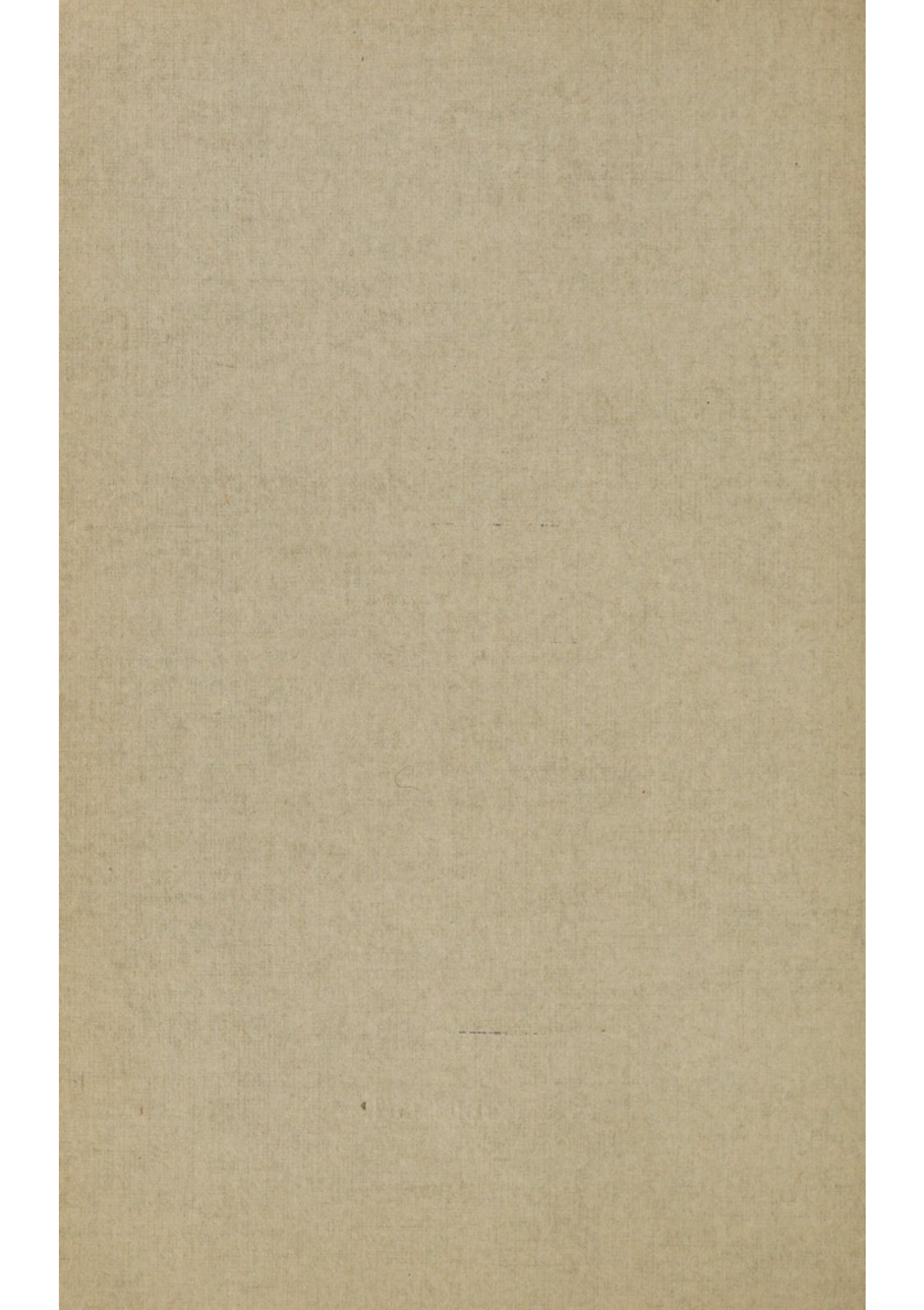
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LIST OF LOCAL AND ADOPTED SANITARY ACTS ADMISTERED BY THE COUNCIL.

- Nelson Water and Gas Act, 1866.
 Nelson Local Board Act, 1879.
 Nelson Improvement Act, 1886.
 Nelson Local Board Act, 1888.
 Nelson Corporation Act, 1903.
 Nelson Provisional Orders, 1871, 1873, 1876, 1890, 1895, 1897,
 1899, 1904.
 Borough of Nelson (Extension) Order, 1897.
 The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted 1891.
 The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, adopted 1896.
 The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, parts adopted
 1912.
 The Nelson Corporation Act, 1921.
 The Public Health Act, 1925, except Sections 15, 35 and 41.

LIST OF BYELAWS RELATING TO SANITARY MATTERS IN FORCE IN THE BOROUGH.

Dates of Adoption.

- 1890—Common Lodging Houses.
 1897—Offensive Trades: Blood Boiler, Blood Drier, Bone
 Boiler, Fellmonger, Tanner, Leather Dresser, Soap
 Boiler, Tallow Melter, Fat Melter, Tripe Boiler, Glue
 Maker, Size Maker, Gut Scraper.
 1897—Nuisances.
 1897 and 1907—Slaughter Houses.
 1911—Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations.
 1931—Sanitary Conveniences.
 1939—Buildings.

BOROUGH OF NELSON

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman),
 COUNCILLOR T. WALKER (Vice-Chairman).
 THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR F. RYCROFT).
 ALDERMAN W. BANNISTER.

„ F. CORK.
 „ R. WINTERBOTTOM.
 COUNCILLOR MRS. A. BURROWS.
 „ J. W. BUTTERFIELD.
 „ A. DENT.
 „ G. H. DUXBURY.
 „ J. HAYHURST.
 „ R. P. LEE.
 „ A. SHACKLETON.
 „ S. SHAW.
 „ D. J. SPEAK.
 „ F. TAYLOR.
 „ L. WATSON.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health R. E. ROBINSON,
 M.A., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
 Chief Sanitary Inspector J. W. INGHAM,
 C.R.S.I., Food Certificate.
 Assistant Inspector S. HAYDOCK, C.R.S.I.
 Senior Clerk N. GRIFFITHS.
 Clerk G. WALTON.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
21 CARR ROAD,
NELSON.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1949, and must express my regret that its appearance has been so long delayed.

Apart from a fair number of mild cases of measles in the early part of the year, which were a legacy from the epidemic in 1948, there were no serious outbreaks of illness.

The infantile mortality rate is slightly above that for the country as a whole, and in my memory and record it is the first time that this has occurred, but it is bound to happen occasionally when the local authority is a small one. The illegitimate death rate has increased considerably due to the deaths of four infants from prematurity and congenital defects.

Apart from this, the year was a successful one for the department.

I am grateful for the co-operation of the staff and the enthusiastic encouragement of the committee at all times.

I am,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. ROBINSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Area in acres | 3,466 |
| Population—Census, 1931 | 38,306 |
| Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population— mid-year, 1949 | 34,530 |
| Number of inhabited houses— | |
| (a) Census, 1931 | 11,128 |
| (b) End of 1949, according to rate books | 12,282 |
| Rate | 16/10d. in the £ |
| Rateable value | £240,296 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £985.803 |

The cost of the Local Health Services for the financial year 1949-50 was estimated at £3,335, which is equivalent to a rate of 3.383d. in the £.

The chief industries in the area are cotton and silk weaving and allied trades. There has been no apparent change in social conditions during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

| | | | | |
|--|-------|---------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Live Births : | Males | Females | Total | Rate |
| Legitimate | 235 | 225 | 460 | per 1,000 estimated |
| Illegitimate | 11 | 7 | 18 | civilian population : |
| Total | 246 | 232 | 478 | 13.8 |
| Still Births : | | | | |
| Legitimate | 4 | 7 | 11 | per 1,000 total births |
| Illegitimate | — | 3 | 3 | (Live and Still) : |
| Total | 4 | 10 | 14 | 28 |
| Deaths | 277 | 271 | 548 | per 1,000 estimated |
| | | | | population : 15.9 |
| | | | | Adjusted 14.1 |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age : | | | | |
| Legitimate | 7 | 6 | 13 | per 1,000 live births : |
| Illegitimate | 3 | 1 | 4 | 36 |
| Total | 10 | 7 | 17 | per 1,000 legitimate live |
| | | | | births : 28 |
| | | | | per 1,000 illegitimate live |
| | | | | births : 222 |
| Maternal Deaths : | | | | |
| Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ... | Nil | | | per 1,000 total births |
| | | | | (live and still) : Nil |
| Other maternal causes | Nil | | | do. Nil |

There was no unusual mortality evident during the year, nor did there appear to be any particular cause of morbidity especially noteworthy.

Analysis of the figures available does not show any prejudicial effect on the health of the population which could be accounted for by any occupational or environmental factors.

BIRTHS.

The actual number of births registered in Nelson during the year was 416, of which 402 were live births and 14 still births. Included in this number were 18 live births and 2 still births relative to non-residents of the area, but the corrected number of live and still births for the year was 478 and 14 respectively, which shows that 94 live births and 2 still births pertaining to Nelson residents, occurred outside the district.

The 478 live births represents an annual live birth rate of 13.8 per 1,000 of estimated population, which is a decrease of 2.6 per 1,000 on the live birth rate for 1948, and also on the average live birth rate for the past 5 years, 1944-1948.

Compared with the birth rate for England and Wales for 1949, the Nelson rate is less by 2.9 per 1,000 of population, and compared with the average birth rate of 148 towns with a 1931 census population of 25,000—50,000, Nelson's rate is 4.2 per 1,000 less.

The 14 still births registered gives a still birth rate of 28 per 1,000 total births (live and still), and 0.4 per 1,000 of estimated population, and represent 2.8% of the total live and still births.

Included in the total of 478 live births are 18 illegitimate births which represent 3.7% of the total live births, and give an illegitimate live birth rate of 0.52 per 1,000 of population.

DEATHS.

During the year 433 deaths occurred in Nelson, but 25 of these were of non-residents. In addition, 140 residents died outside the area, so that the total deaths assignable to Nelson for the period is 548 (277 males and 271 females) which gives an annual death rate of 15.9 per 1,000 of population. This figure is an increase of 0.9 on the previous year, and 0.7 per 1,000 on the average figure for the 5 years 1944-1948. Compared with other figures supplied by the Registrar General, the Nelson death rate is 4.2 higher than the rate for England and Wales, and 4.3 above the rate for a group of 148 towns with a 1931 census population of 25,000—50,000. These latter comparisons are exactly the same as in the previous year.

Analysis of the deaths according to age, causes and monthly incidence reveals:—

The greatest number of deaths (87 males and 84 females) occurred from heart disease giving a death rate of 4.92 per 1,000 of population. The next highest cause (40 males and 47 females) was intra-cranial vascular lesions giving a death rate of 2.51 per 1,000, followed by deaths from malignant disease (25 males and 37 females) showing a death rate of 1.79 per 1,000 of population. Respiratory diseases (excluding Phthisis) were responsible for 59 deaths (33 males and 26 females) giving a death rate of 1.70 per 1,000 of population.

For comparison, the death rates for these four causes last year were:—Heart disease 4.37, Intra-cranial vascular lesions 2.20, Malignant disease 2.16, and Respiratory diseases 1.36 per 1,000 of population.

There were 21 deaths from tuberculosis (17 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary) which gives a death rate of 0.60 per 1,000 of population. Last year there were 23 deaths (19 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary) which gave a death rate of 0.66 per 1,000 of population.

In the age groups the greatest number of deaths occurred in the 70-75 group, which shows 105 deaths or 19.1% of the total. It is also noted that 17 deaths occurred under the age of 1 year, 21 under the age of 5 years, and 366 over the age of 65 years, which represent 3.1%, 3.8%, and 66.8% respectively, of the total deaths.

As in the previous year December had the greatest number of deaths for the month with 71, which is equivalent to an annual death rate of 24.6 per 1,000 of population. The least number of deaths occurred in August, when there were 23, which is equivalent to an annual death rate of 7.9 per 1,000 of population.

The birth and death rates are calculated on an estimated population of 34,530, which is the figure supplied by the Registrar General as representing the population of Nelson at mid-year 1949. This is the same as the one supplied for the previous year, but is 3,776 less than the 1931 actual census figure.

INFANT DEATHS.

There were 17 deaths (10 males and 7 females) of infants under the age of one year, and this gives an annual infantile mortality rate of 36 per 1,000 live births, which is 4 per 1,000 live births and 6 deaths less than the previous year.

The average rate for the previous five years 1944-48, is 35 per 1,000 live births, so that the 1949 rate is an increase of 1 per 1,000 live births.

Compared with the infantile mortality rate for England and Wales for 1949, i.e., 32 per 1,000 live births, the Nelson rate is greater by 4, and it is greater by 6 than the average infantile mortality rate for the group of 148 towns with a 1931 census population of 25,000—50,000, which rate is 30 per 1,000 live births.

A study of the infant deaths reveals:—

- (a) That 4 of these were illegitimate infants which gives an illegitimate infantile mortality rate of 222 per 1,000 illegitimate live births, and the remaining 13 legitimate infant deaths gives a legitimate infantile mortality rate of 28 per 1,000 live legitimate births.
- (b) That 6 deaths, or 35.3%, were due to prematurity, which includes an instance of twin births; 6 deaths were due to congenital malformations, injury at birth or diseases peculiar to infants. There was one death necessitating an inquest.
- (c) That there were 8 neo-natal deaths, or deaths under the age of one month, and of these 3 took place within 24 hours of birth and 5 from 1 to 7 days of birth. These 8 deaths represent 47.0% of the total infant deaths for the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Work in the small laboratory attached to the Public Health Department has continued throughout the year, and a total of 601 specimens were either sent or obtained for examination. Of this number, 531 were examined at this laboratory, and 70, which required examination for which this laboratory is not equipped, were sent to other laboratories, viz., 44 to the Public

Health Laboratory, Burnley; 3 to the Public Analyst, Burnley; 20 to Edinburgh University; and 3 to the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall, Manchester. Included in this latter category were, fæces for bacteriological examination, blood for Wasserman re-action, human tissue, urines for pregnancy test, and water for chemical and bacteriological examination.

A detailed list of the total specimens is as follows:—

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Urines | 241 |
| Animal glands, etc. | 161 |
| Milk deposits | 67 |
| Throat swabs | 27 |
| Pus | 24 |
| Sputum | 16 |
| Vaginal swabs | 9 |
| Fæces | 8 |
| Ice Cream | 8 |
| Insects | 8 |
| Blood | 8 |
| Semen | 7 |
| Water | 4 |
| Hair | 3 |
| Nasal swabs | 2 |
| Human tissue | 1 |
| Calculus | 1 |
| Eye swabs | 1 |
| Others | 5 |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

No change has taken place during the year as regards the source, storage or distribution of the water supply for the area. 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. The source in both cases is upland surface water and springs. Chlorination plant and pressure filters are installed at both groups of reservoirs.

Routine inspection is made of the gathering grounds to ensure freedom from obvious sources of pollution, and samples

of both raw water and the water as it goes into supply are regularly taken and submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination.

During the year 53 bacteriological and 5 chemical examinations have been made, both of raw water and the water going into supply, all of which gave satisfactory results.

No plumbo-solvent action is found in the water.

Water is supplied to other districts adjacent to Nelson, and in Nelson 12,258 dwellinghouses are supplied direct from public mains, covering an estimated population of 34,300. No dwellinghouses are supplied by means of stand pipes.

A shortage of water is experienced in a small number of houses, due to groups of these houses being supplied with an inefficient joint service pipe. The corporation has a scheme whereby financial assistance is given to the owners of houses requiring separate service pipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extension of the sewage plant has taken place during the year, but two bacteria filters have been re-constructed, and the main sewer in Walverden valley has been under re-construction.

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 on adjoining farm land during autumn and winter months.

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.

There are only a few isolated areas and houses in the borough which are not drained to a sewer, and at the end of the year this matter was under consideration.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

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

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Privy middens:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Number of middens | 10 |
| Number of closets attached to these middens | 10 |
| Number of pail closets | 22 |
| Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) | 6 |
| Number of movable ashbins | 12,600 |
| Number of trough closets | 85 |
| Number of waste water closets | 7,350 |
| Number of fresh water closets | 5,544 |
| Number of houses on water carriage system | 12,228 |

Conversions during the year:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of privy closets to fresh water closets | 2 |
| Number of waste water closets to fresh water closets | 110 |

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out by a separate department under the direction of the Director of Public Cleansing (Mr. V. Robinson), who informs me that there has been no change in procedure during the year. The work is carried out by direct labour and on the following lines.

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 gulley 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 | 1220 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| No. of visits re infectious diseases | 128 |
| No. of inspections: Stables | 86 |
| Licensed premises | 22 |
| Bakehouses | 125 |
| Workshops and factories | 34 |
| Meat shops and stalls | 144 |
| Slaughterhouses | 42 |
| Dairies and cowsheds | 43 |
| Offensive trades | 19 |
| Ice cream vendors | 40 |
| Housing | 419 |
| Premises general | 511 |
| No. of defects or nuisances discovered | 425 |
| No. of defects or nuisances abated | 341 |
| No. of verbal notices given | 80 |
| No. of informal notices sent | 108 |
| No. of legal notices sent | 23 |
| No. of smoke observations | 27 |

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

During the year 27 smoke observations were taken and no excessive emission of black smoke was recorded. The prescribed limit for the emission of black smoke in the area is 5 minutes in 30 minutes.

Taking an average of the 27 observations based on a 30 minutes duration gives the following result: Black Smoke 9 seconds, Moderate Smoke 4 minutes 53 seconds, Light Smoke 18 minutes 9 seconds, Clear 6 minutes 49 seconds.

There are no spoil banks in the area.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Corporation own the Public Baths which are situate in Bradley Road, Nelson, and provide swimming baths and slipper baths for males and females.

An Open Air Swimming Pool situate in Marsden Park is also provided and controlled by the Corporation.

Filtration and chlorination plants are in operation at both these premises.

DISINFESTATION.

Disinfestation of 11 houses involving 43 rooms has taken place during the year, but none of these were owned by the Corporation.

Infested rooms are treated by spraying with a solution containing D.D.T., the use of a D.D.T. fumigant, or in some cases a combination of both methods.

The work is carried out by direct labour and the methods are found to be efficient.

SCHOOLS.

There are 24 schools in the district and on the whole the sanitary condition might be regarded as fair. The following information gives an analysis of the sanitary conditions:—

| | |
|--|----|
| (a) No. of schools with unsatisfactory yard surfaces | 6 |
| (b) Sanitary accommodation. No. of schools with: | |
| (1) Fresh water closets | 15 |
| (2) Waste water closets | — |
| (3) Trough closets | 9 |
| (c) Refuse disposal. No. of schools with: | |
| (1) Dustbins | 23 |
| (2) Dry ashpits | — |
| (d) Water supply. No. of schools supplied from: | |
| (1) Public mains | 24 |
| (2) Private supplies | — |
| (e) No. of schools where washing and drinking facilities are considered unsatisfactory | 22 |
| (f) Drainage. No. of schools with drainage to: | |
| (1) Public sewers | 24 |
| (2) Private treatment works | — |
| (g) Facilities for handling meals at the schools. Satisfactory. | |

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Only one offensive trade, gut scraping, is carried on within the borough. These premises are inspected regularly and the business is conducted satisfactorily.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:

| Defects. | 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 | 132 | 4 | — | — |
| Factories not included above, in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 212 | 43 | — | — |
| Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 344 | 47 | — | — |

(2) Cases in which defects were found:

| Defects. | Found | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector | Referred by H.M. Inspector | Legal Action |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Want of cleanliness ... | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Sanitary conveniences: | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 2 | 1 | — | 2 | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 11 | 4 | — | 11 | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 2 | 1 | — | 2 | — |
| Total..... | 16 | 7 | — | 15 | — |

(3) Outwork: Two notifications of outworkers have been received as follows:—

- (a) the making of wearing apparel
- (b) textile weaving.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is no common lodging house in Nelson, nor are any houses registered as let in lodgings. No action has been necessary either in regard to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., nor to Underground Sleeping Rooms.

CANAL BOATS.

No inspections are made of canal boats.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928.

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 | Nil | 69 |
| (ii) By other Local Authorities ... | Nil | Nil |
| (iii) By other bodies or persons | Nil | 12 |

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:

| | |
|---|-----|
| (i) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects | 140 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 419 |
| (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 | 113 |

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

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action | 74 |
|--|----|

Action under statutory powers:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which legal notices were served under Housing Act, 1936 | 23 |
| Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit by owners after service of notice | 15 |
| By local authority in default of owners | Nil |
| Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which legal notices were served under Public Health Acts | Nil |
| Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit by owners after service of notice | Nil |
| 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 | 5 |

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

On the whole the general standard of houses is good. New property is mainly of the semi-detached type, though the great majority of houses are of the through terrace type. There are 53 back-to-back houses and 81 other houses which might be classified as old property, but there are no back-to-earth houses.

The majority of defects found are due to the lack of repairs and maintenance, which to a large extent is due to the shortage of labour and materials, and the greatly increased cost of repairs generally.

A summary of the housing defects found during the year is as follows:—

| | |
|---|-----|
| Dampness due to defective roof, troughing or fall pipes | 107 |
| Defective plastering on walls or ceilings | 51 |
| Defective pointing or flashing | 46 |
| Defective windows | 41 |
| Defective W.C's, W.W.C's., or drains | 37 |
| Defective doors and gates | 23 |
| Defective yard surfaces | 14 |
| Defective fire ranges | 9 |
| Defective sinks and wash basins | 9 |
| Defective chimney stacks | 8 |
| Defective floors | 7 |
| Defective artificial lighting | 3 |
| Water leakages | 2 |

There is still a large waiting list for municipal houses of the two and three bedroom type. At the end of the year there were 79 houses in hand and a further 46 contemplated. The sites for development in the borough are limited, but the Preliminary Plan for Lancashire (Interim Edition) estimates that land for housing requirements can just be met.

OVERCROWDING.

It was not possible, from the information available, to assess the degree of overcrowding existing in the borough. No cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority have been brought to the notice of the sanitary authority during the year but five other cases have been confirmed and information passed to the Housing Department with a recommendation for priority when accommodation became available.

WATER SUPPLY AND SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

All the built up area of the borough is provided with an internal water supply, but there are approximately 115 houses which have a restricted supply due to the inadequacy of a joint service pipe. The corporation have a scheme for dealing with these and the Water Department carry out the necessary work as opportunity arises.

Only the back-to-back, single houses, and old houses in the town have no separate water closet or adequate sanitary accommodation. There are approximately 107 of these dwellings which are not confined to any particular district, but are scattered throughout the area.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Up to the 30th September, 1949, as changes occurred amongst dairymen and cowkeepers, they were recorded in the departmental register. These records showed that there were 30 dairy farms in the area, most of which produced undesignated milk, although designated milk is produced in the area, and the Lancashire County Council were the licensing authority.

There were 39 inspections made of these premises during the year and no notice was received of any structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, came into operation on the 1st October, and at the end of the year arrangements were being

made to register all distributors of milk and grant licences to use the appropriate special designations

Informal samples of milk were taken throughout the year and tests to determine quality were carried out in the department's laboratory.

A summary of these tests is as follows:—

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|----|
| (a) Milk Fat | Total number tested 217 | Number in which a deficiency was found | 5 |
| (b) Solids not Fat | Total number tested 217 | Number in which a deficiency was found | 2 |
| (c) Visible Cleanliness | Total number tested 206 | Number found not to be satisfactory | 2 |
| (d) Methylene Blue Test | Total number tested 214 | Number found which failed to reach the standard adopted, i.e., 4½ hours in summer and 5½ hours in winter | 29 |
| (e) Coliform Test | Total number tested 214 | Number found to contain coliform bacilli in 0.01 c.c. | 65 |
| (f) Resazurin Test for keeping quality | Total number tested 217 | Number found to be : | |
| | | Excellent | 88 |
| | | Very good | 50 |
| | | Good | 45 |
| | | Fair | 21 |
| | | Poor | 7 |
| | | Bad | 1 |
| | | Very bad | 5 |
| (g) Tubercle Bacilli | Total number tested 36 | Number found to contain tubercle bacilli | 3 |

Of the above samples, 132 were purchased, 33 were obtained from the various schools in the borough and 52 were submitted for testing.

A report of each test is sent to the vendor, and if unsatisfactory results are obtained advice is given and arrangements 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 samples taken in Nelson by his officers.

A total of 184 samples was obtained, of these 92 were milk, and the 92 others comprised:—

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Parrish's chemical food | 1 Custard powder |
| 3 Mustard compound | 2 Glycerin of borax |
| 4 Zinc ointment | 2 Honey |
| 3 Vinegar non-brewed | 4 Butter |
| 1 Dried parsley | 1 Dessert mould powder |
| 4 Margarine | 2 Sauce |
| 2 Self-raising flour | 1 Fish paste |
| 1 Fish, canned | 4 Salt |
| 3 Ice cream | 1 Tea cake |
| 2 Cooking fat | 1 Meat pie |
| 1 Bread | 1 Sago |
| 1 Tapioca | 1 Pickles |
| 1 Mango chutney | 1 Pork, canned (Danish) |
| 4 Castor oil | 3 Borax |
| 2 Glycerin | 2 Cheese |
| 2 Lard | 1 Liquid paraffin |
| 1 Ham loaf, canned | 1 Barley |
| 1 Camphorated oil | 1 Dried peas |
| 1 Raisins | 1 Pepper, white |
| 1 Lentils | 1 Nutmeg, ground |
| 1 Mixed spice | 1 Boracic acid powder |
| 4 Sulphur ointment | 1 Prunes |
| 1 Boracic crystals | 1 Cake flour mixture |
| 2 Baking powder | 1 Pudding mixture (Cremola) |
| 1 College pudding | 4 Gelatine |
| 3 Arrowroot | |

All the samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

| Sample. | Result of Analysis. | Action taken. |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 Parrish's chemical food | Ferrous phosphate 0.06% and calcium phosphate 0.08% in excess of maximum B.P. limit | Packers communicated with. |
| 1 Zinc ointment | 0.2% zinc oxide in excess of B.P. 1948 limit | No action taken. |
| 1 Formal milk | Deficient 8.3% fat | Vendor notified. |
| 1 Formal milk | Deficient 3.3% fat and low in solids-not-fat | Vendor notified. |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| 1 Dessert mould powder | No declaration of ingredients as required by Article 2(3) Labelling of Food Order 1946 | Prosecution not proceeded with. Packers agreed to alter label. |
| 1 Informal milk | Deficient 13.3% fat | School milk. Further samples obtained. |
| 1 Baking powder | Contained only 4.4% available carbon dioxide. Caked in packet | Stock surrendered. |

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Centralised slaughtering is carried out for the area at Colne Abattoirs and these premises form the distributing centre for meat for the area. One slaughter house in Nelson has been licensed to provide facilities for the slaughtering of cottagers' pigs. These pigs are slaughtered under a certificate issued by the Ministry of Food, and advantage has been taken on many occasions for the slaughtering to be carried out at the licensed slaughter house. It is not compulsory, however, and several pigs have been slaughtered on farm premises. Co-ordination between the Food Office and the Public Health Office has enabled all pigs to be examined after slaughter, and the following shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned during the year:—

| | |
|--|------|
| Number of pigs killed | 162 |
| Number of pigs inspected | 162 |
| All diseases except tuberculosis: | |
| (a) Whole carcasses condemned | — |
| (b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 4 |
| (c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis | 2.4% |
| Tuberculosis only: | |
| (a) Whole carcasses condemned | — |
| (b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 8 |
| (c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | 4.9% |

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.

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|-----|--------|
| 29 containers of baked beans | approximate quantity | 33 | lbs. |
| 376 containers of milk | approximate quantity | 350 | lbs. |
| 10 containers of soup | approximate quantity | 9 | lbs. |
| 23 containers of fish products | approximate quantity | 21 | lbs. |
| 78 containers of meat products | approximate quantity | 110 | lbs. |
| 110 containers of vegetable products | approximate quantity | 108 | lbs. |
| 94 containers of fruit | approximate quantity | 118 | lbs. |
| 1 container of fish cakes | approximate quantity | 7 | oz. |
| 10 containers of baking powder | approximate quantity | 1½ | lbs. |
| 3 containers of spaghetti | approximate quantity | 3 | lbs. |
| Codfish | | 63 | lbs. |
| Herrings | | 10½ | stones |
| Smoked cod fillet | | 28 | lbs. |
| Smoked haddock fillet | | 28 | lbs. |
| Dried peas | | 31 | lbs. |
| Jersey potatoes | | 56 | lbs. |
| Lobster tails | | 40 | |

FOOD POISONING.

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (RIVERS BOARD AND GENERAL POWERS) ACT, 1938.

SECTIONS 115 AND 116.

Under this Act premises are registered for :

- (a) The sale or manufacture for purposes of sale of any commodity consisting of ice-cream or any substance similar thereto or the storage of any such commodity intended for sale; or
- (b) The preparation or manufacture of sausage or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved meat, fish or other food intended for sale.

Visits of inspection are made periodically to these premises and occasional samples of ice cream were taken for fat content and methylene blue examination.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.), REGULATIONS, 1947-8.

Advice is given on the interpretation of the Regulations and routine visits are paid to the premises involved, to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 165 cases of infectious disease were notified under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, and this is a decrease of 445 on the figure for 1948. The main decrease is in the number of cases of measles and whooping cough.

A detailed comparison with the previous year is as follows :

| | Cases notified. | | Cases removed to hospital. | | Deaths. | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | 1949. | 1948. | 1949. | 1948. | 1949. | 1948. |
| Scarlet Fever | 47 | 69 | 28 | 20 | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Enteric Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Paratyphoid Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | 79 | 406 | — | 7 | 1 | — |
| Whooping Cough | 9 | 113 | — | 3 | — | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 21 | 6 | — | 1 | 12 | 10 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Acute Polio-myelitis | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Acute Polio-encephalitis | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Dysentery | — | 4 | — | 3 | — | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | 2 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Erysipelas | 5 | 4 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | — | — | — | — | — | — |

A total of 42 patients were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Marsden Road, Burnley, but in 10 cases the diagnosis was not confirmed, the disease being of a non-infectious nature, and the notifications were consequently withdrawn. One other non-infectious case was an infant who had to accompany the mother who was suffering from puerperal pyrexia.

There was no noteworthy prevalence of infectious diseases during the year. An epidemic of measles which ran through the latter months of 1948 continued until January, 1949, when 63 cases were notified, but there were only sporadic cases during the remainder of the year.

One case of acute polio-myelitis, a female aged 12 years, was notified during October, and at the end of the year the case was receiving re-habilitation treatment in an orthopaedic hospital.

The following table gives an analysis of the notified cases of infectious diseases in age groups:—

| Disease. | Total cases | Under 1 | Age Periods. | | | | | | | | | | No. rem'd to hosp'l. | Deaths |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|---|---|----|----------------------|--------|
| | | | 1 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 25 | 45 | 65 & over | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | 47 | — | 2 | 4 | 25 | 12 | 4 | — | — | — | — | 28 | — | |
| Measles | 79 | 2 | 32 | 30 | 14 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | |
| Whooping Cough | 9 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Pneumonia | 21 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 3 | 3 | 7 | 7 | — | — | 12 | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | |
| Acute Polio-myelitis | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Erysipelas | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 4 | — | — | 1 | — | |
| Total | 165 | 5 | 36 | 39 | 40 | 13 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 31 | 13 | |

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 the 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 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Paratyphoid fever | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Cerebro-spinal fever | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.00 |
| Scarlet fever | 1.63 | 1.72 | 1.83 | 1.46 | 1.36 |
| Whooping cough | 2.39 | 2.44 | 2.39 | 1.70 | 0.26 |
| Diphtheria | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.07 | 0.00 |
| Erysipelas | 0.19 | 0.20 | 0.19 | 0.17 | 0.14 |
| Smallpox | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Measles | 8.95 | 8.91 | 9.18 | 8.54 | 2.28 |
| Pneumonia | 0.80 | 0.91 | 0.65 | 0.55 | 0.60 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.12 | 0.18 | 0.02 |
| Acute Polio-encephalitis | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Food Poisoning | 0.14 | 0.16 | 0.14 | 0.19 | 0.00 |

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 99 premises, involving 119 rooms, have been fumigated and 234 articles of wearing apparel and 289 articles of bedding have been disinfected.

Fumigation of rooms is carried out by means of formalin spray and vapour, whilst disinfection of bedding, etc., is done by steam, the apparatus being situated at the Destructor Works, Charles Street. Irrespective of infectious diseases, many requests are received for disinfection to be carried out following other illnesses or deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Dr. G. Barker-Charnock, the Consultant Chest Physician for this area has kindly supplied the following particulars relative to Nelson patients.

Of the 263 new patients, 256 of whom were examined at the Dispensary and 7 at their homes, 45 were found to be

suffering from some form of tuberculosis, the remainder being discharged after observation as non-tuberculous. There were 776 examinations of 'old' cases. With regard to treatment, 8 early cases were admitted to sanatorium, 14 advanced cases to hospital, and 6 cases of surgical tuberculosis to general or special hospitals; x-ray examinations totalled 397. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor made 45 primary and 891 subsequent visits to patients. During the year 2 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary cases were written off as recovered."

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

| Age Periods | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----|---------------------------|----|-------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| | Respiratory M. | F. | Non- respiratory M. | F. | Respiratory M. | F. | Non- respiratory M. | F. |
| Under 1 year... | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 1 to 5 years... | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 to 10 years... | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| 10 to 15 years... | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| 15 to 20 years... | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| 20 to 25 years... | 2 | 3 | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — |
| 25 to 35 years... | 3 | 5 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 1 | — |
| 35 to 45 years... | 5 | 2 | — | 1 | 3 | 1 | — | — |
| 45 to 55 years... | 5 | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 55 to 65 years... | 8 | 1 | — | — | 5 | — | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Totals | 24 | 14 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 2 |

At the end of the year there were 198 cases of tuberculosis on the Nelson register, as follows:—

| | | | |
|----------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| Pulmonary: | Males 81 | Females 45 | Total 126 |
| Non-pulmonary: | Males 22 | Females 50 | Total 72 |

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.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action has been necessary under these Regulations for dealing with tuberculosis employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936—SECTION 172.

No action has been necessary under this section for compulsory removal to hospital.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47.

No action has been required under this section during the year.

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 | 1045.1 mb. on 30th Jan. |
| | Lowest reading | 957.6 mb. on 1st Jan. |
| | Mean for the year | 1015.8 mb. |
| Maximum in the shade.. | Highest reading | 83.0° on 12th July. |
| | Lowest reading | 32.2° on 8th March. |
| | Mean for the year | 55.7° |
| Minimum in the shade.. | Highest reading | 61.2° on 28th July. |
| | Lowest reading | 20.1° on 11th March. |
| | Mean for the year | 42.4° |
| Bright sunshine | No. of days recording sunshine | 283 |
| | Total amount for the year | 1288.3 hours |
| | Average per day throughout the year ... | 3.53 hours |
| Rainfall | No. of days on which rain occurred | 190 |
| | Total rainfall for the year | 39.61 inches |
| | Greatest fall in one day | 1.15 inches on 2nd Dec. |
| | No. of days with rainfall of 0.01 to 0.03 inches | 38 |
| | No. of days with rainfall of 0.04 inches or more | 152 |

CONCLUSION.

In the preparation of this report I am indebted to the following officials who have supplied me with information relative to work coming under their control, and I desire to express my appreciation of the willing assistance rendered to enable me to present this report for the year 1949.

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

Dr. G. Barker-Charnock, Consultant Chest Physician.

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, Director of Public Cleansing, Nelson.

APPENDIX I.

Causes of Death with Corresponding Rates.

| Cause of Death | Male | Female | Total | Death Rate |
|---|------|--------|-------|------------|
| All causes. | 277 | 271 | 548 | 15.9 |
| 1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... | — | — | — | 00.00 |
| 2. Cerebro-spinal fever | — | — | — | 00.00 |
| 3. Scarlet fever | — | — | — | 00.00 |
| 4. Whooping cough | — | — | — | 00.00 |
| 5. Diphtheria | — | — | — | 00.00 |
| 6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system | 12 | 5 | 17 | 00.49 |
| 7. Other forms of tuberculosis | 2 | 2 | 4 | 00.11 |
| 8. Syphilitic disease | — | — | — | 00.00 |
| 9. Influenza | 4 | 8 | 12 | 00.34 |
| 10. Measles | 1 | — | 1 | 00.02 |
| 11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis | — | — | — | 00.00 |
| 12. Acute infectious encephalitis | — | — | — | 00.00 |
| 13M. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only) | 2 | — | 2 | 00.05 |
| 13F. Cancer of uterus | — | 4 | 4 | 00.11 |
| 14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum | 6 | 6 | 12 | 00.34 |
| 15. Cancer of breast | — | 9 | 9 | 00.26 |
| 16. Cancer of all other sites | 17 | 18 | 35 | 01.01 |
| 17. Diabetes | 3 | 3 | 6 | 00.17 |
| 18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions | 40 | 47 | 87 | 02.51 |
| 19. Heart disease | 86 | 84 | 170 | 04.92 |
| 20. Other diseases of the circulatory system | 4 | 4 | 8 | 00.23 |
| 21. Bronchitis | 23 | 21 | 44 | 01.27 |
| 22. Pneumonia | 9 | 3 | 12 | 00.34 |
| 23. Other respiratory diseases | 1 | 2 | 3 | 00.08 |
| 24. Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum | 3 | 2 | 5 | 00.14 |
| 25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 00.05 |
| 26. Appendicitis | 3 | 1 | 4 | 00.11 |
| 27. Other digestive diseases | 5 | 7 | 12 | 00.34 |
| 28. Nephritis | 7 | 9 | 16 | 00.46 |
| 29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis | — | — | — | 00.00 |
| 30. Other maternal causes | — | — | — | 00.00 |
| 31. Premature birth | 3 | 3 | 6 | 00.17 |
| 32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease | 3 | 3 | 6 | 00.17 |
| 33. Suicide | 4 | 2 | 6 | 00.17 |
| 34. Road traffic accidents | 2 | — | 2 | 00.05 |
| 35. Other violent causes | 6 | 7 | 13 | 00.37 |
| 36. All other causes | 30 | 20 | 50 | 01.44 |

APPENDIX II.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case Rates for certain infectious diseases in the year 1949.

| | 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 | 16.7* | 18.7 | 18.0 | 18.5 | 13.8 |
| Still births | 0.39* | 0.47 | 0.40 | 0.37 | 0.40 |
| Deaths : | | | | | |
| All causes | 11.7 | 12.5 | 11.6 | 12.2 | 15.9 |
| Typhoid & paratyphoid fever | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Whooping cough | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Diphtheria | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Tuberculosis | 0.45 | 0.52 | 0.42 | 0.52 | 0.49 |
| Influenza | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.14 | 0.11 | 0.34 |
| Smallpox | 0.00 | 0.00 | — | — | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-Encephalitis | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Pneumonia | 0.51 | 0.56 | 0.49 | 0.59 | 0.34 |

RATES PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Deaths under one year of age | 32† | 37 | 30 | 29 | 36 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea and enteritis, under 2 years of age | 3.0 | 3.8 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 4.1 |

* Rates per 1000 Total Population.

† Per 1,000 related live births.

APPENDIX III.

Comparison of various Nelson rates for 1949 with those for 1948 and the mean of the 5 years, 1944-1948.

| | 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 1944-1948 | 16.4 | 15.2 | 0.42 | 2.16 | 1.12 | 1.09 | 35 |
| 1948 | 16.4 | 15.0 | 0.55 | 2.14 | Nil | Nil | 40 |
| 1949 | 13.8 | 15.9 | 0.49 | 1.80 | Nil | Nil | 36 |
| Increase or decrease of 1949 rates on 5 years' average 1944-1948 | -2.6 | +0.7 | +0.7 | -0.36 | -1.12 | -1.09 | +1 |
| Increase or decrease of 1949 rates on 1948 | -2.6 | +0.9 | -0.06 | -0.34 | Nil | Nil | +4 |



