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BOROUGH OF NELSON

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1951.

R. E. ROBINSON,
Medical Officer of Health.





BOROUGH OF NELSON

R E P O R T

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

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R. E. ROBINSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF WILSON

K. E. B. R.

Medical Officer of Health

1931

W. A. BOWMAN
Medical Officer of Health

BOROUGH OF NELSON

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).

COUNCILLOR G. H. DUXBURY (Vice-Chairman).

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR S. SHAW).

ALDERMAN W. BANNISTER.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. BANNISTER.

„ J. W. BUTTERFIELD.

„ H. F. CHAMINGS.

„ P. S. COX.

„ J. HAYHURST.

„ H. INGHAM.

„ MRS. E. KAY.

„ A. MEDLEY.

„ K. SUTCLIFFE.

„ T. WALKER.

„ A. T. WELLS.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health R. E. ROBINSON,
M.A., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector W. L. KAY,
F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I. (a, b, c, d, e, f, and g)

Additional Sanitary Inspectors A. R. METCALFE,
M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. (a, h).

G. PRITCHARD,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (a, b, e, and i).
Commenced duty 1st June, 1951.

Chief Clerk N. GRIFFITHS

Clerks G. WALTON, MISS P. SCOTT.

- (a) Certificate R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
- (b) Certificate R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.
- (c) R.S.I. Certificate for Smoke Inspectors.
- (d) R.S.I. Certificate in Sanitary Science applied to Buildings and Public Works.
- (e) Liverpool University Meat Inspectors Diploma.
- (f) Liverpool School of Hygiene & Smoke Inspectors Certificate.
- (g) City and Guilds Certificate in Boilerhouse Practice.
- (h) Diploma in General Hygiene (Hons.) Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.
- (i) Certificate of Institute of Meat.

LIST OF LOCAL AND ADOPTED SANITARY ACTS ADMINISTERED 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 BYE-LAWS 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 Slaughterhouses.
 1911 Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations.
 1931 Sanitary Conveniences.
 1939 Buildings.
 1954 Clean Food Byelaws.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
21 CARR ROAD,
NELSON.

23rd October, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The year was a good one judging it from the health point of view. The Infantile Mortality was slightly increased from 1950, but it is below that of the whole of England and Wales.

This must not give rise to complacency, however, as the barrier between health and illness is very slender, and constant vigilance is necessary to maintain health. Too many lives are lost too soon and much suffering caused through Cancer, too many accidents causing death and chronic illness occur in the home, and still too many premature babies die.

The need for Health Education is a very real one.

I am grateful for the enthusiastic support of the Committee and the loyalty of the staff on all occasions.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. ROBINSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

PART I.

Statistics and Social Conditions

General Provision of Health Services

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious
Diseases

by

R. E. ROBINSON, M.A., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	3,466
Ordnance level, lowest point	350 feet
Ordnance level, highest point	1,100 feet
Ordnance level, centre of town	458 feet
Drainage of surface water — Natural, chiefly to Walverden Stream and Pendle Water.	
Subsoil — Clay, with understratum of sandstone and outcroppings of coal.	
Population — Census, 1931	38,306
Preliminary Census, 1951	34,369
Registrar-General's estimate of home population, mid-year 1951	34,240
Number of inhabited houses —	
Census, 1931	11,128
End of 1951, according to Rate Books	12,408
Rateable Value	£245,196
General Rate 1951/52 (s./d. in the £)	18/6
Sum represented by a penny rate	£967

The estimated cost of the Local Health Service for the financial year 1951/52 was £3,985, which is equivalent to a rate of 4.15d. in the £.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population for mid-1951 is 430 less than the estimate for the previous year and 120 less than the Preliminary Census figure for 1951.

Cotton and silk weaving and allied trades form the chief industries of the district. Employment has been maintained at a high level throughout the year.

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

Throughout the year daily readings are taken at 9.0 a.m. G.M.T. at the Climatological Station maintained by the Health Department but situate in the grounds of the Cemetery at Walton Lane, and the following tables are of interest in connection with the recordings made during the year.

From these it will be seen that —

- (a) the highest barometer reading for the year was on the 17th October and the lowest reading on the 14th March,
- (b) the highest maximum temperature in the shade during the year was recorded on 22nd July, and the lowest minimum temperature in the shade on 11th December,
- (c) bright sunshine was recorded on 261 days during the year giving a total of 1136.7 hours and an average of 3.0 hours per day. The greatest amount recorded in one day was 15.0 hours on the 5th June, and June was the brightest month of the year with 197.6 hours of sunshine.
- (d) rain fell on 229 days, the total amount for the year being 50.38 inches. The wettest month was December with 9.51 inches and the driest month was June with 1.27 inches of rain.

THERMOMETERS.

Month	In Screen										On Grass				In Ground		
	Maximum					Minimum					Mean Min.	Lowest Temp.	Day of Month	Mean Temp.			
	Mean	Highest Temp.	Day of Month	Lowest Temp.	Day of Month	Mean	Highest Temp.	Day of Month	Lowest Temp.	Day of Month				1 ft.	4 ft.		
January	42.0	56.0	6	34.0	2	33.0	44.0	21	22.0	2	37.5	9.0	30.2	21.0	28	35.8	39.9
February	42.0	48.0	3	38.0	11	32.0	37.0	2	23.0	25	37.0	10.0	29.8	23.0	16	35.9	39.8
March	42.0	53.0	22	35.0	11	33.0	38.0	15	24.0	4	37.5	9.0	27.7	11.0	4	37.0	39.9
April	48.0	64.0	25	41.0	1	35.0	41.0	4	28.0	11	41.5	13.0	32.7	21.0	11	42.1	41.2
May	56.0	66.0	25	43.0	15	41.0	53.0	24	33.0	17	48.5	15.0	34.4	23.0	11	48.5	45.0
June	64.0	71.0	6	54.0	7	45.0	52.0	24	35.0	1	54.5	19.0	46.6	32.0	1	58.1	50.9
July	65.0	75.0	22	56.0	13	50.0	59.0	22	41.0	15	57.5	15.0	50.3	39.0	15	60.3	54.0
August	62.0	72.0	1	56.0	14	52.0	59.0	6	43.0	16	57.0	10.0	48.5	37.0	16	56.8	55.6
September... ..	61.0	69.0	4	56.0	21	49.0	62.0	5	41.0	21	55.0	12.0	47.5	37.0	21	55.2	54.5
October	56.0	66.0	16	42.0	22	41.0	55.0	2	33.0	22	48.5	15.0	39.3	27.0	26	48.5	51.9
November... ..	49.9	57.0	10	46.0	22	40.0	47.0	19	29.0	21	44.9	9.9	37.6	24.0	26	44.6	48.2
December	45.0	50.0	18	37.0	11	34.0	46.0	16	21.0	11	39.5	11.0	32.3	16.0	11	40.9	44.9
For the 12 months	52.7	75.0	22nd July	34.0	2nd Jan.	40.4	62.0	5th Sept	21.0	11th Dec.	46.5	12.3	38.0	11.0	4th Mar	46.9	47.1

BRIGHT SUNSHINE.

Month	Total Bright Sunshine hours	Mean Daily Bright Sunshine hours	Highest in one day		No. of days with Bright Sunshine	No. of days without Bright Sunshine
			Amount hours	Day of month		
January ...	10.5	0.3	2.6	15	9	22
February ...	17.9	0.6	4.2	28	15	13
March... ..	66.0	2.1	9.0	27	17	14
April	154.5	5.1	12.5	20	26	4
May	171.3	5.5	14.9	31	29	2
June	197.6	6.6	15.0	5	27	3
July	150.5	4.8	14.4	1	27	4
August... ..	116.8	3.7	10.7	8	27	4
September ...	110.4	3.6	9.1	1, 30	27	3
October	97.7	3.1	8.7	9	25	6
November ...	31.6	1.0	5.4	10	20	10
December ...	11.9	0.3	5.1	10	12	19
For the 12 months ...	1136.7	3.0	15.0	5 June	261	104

RAINFALL AND HUMIDITY.

Month	Mean Relative Humid- ity %	Total Rainfall	Mean Daily Rainfall	Greatest fall in one day		No. of days with rain	No. of days with- out rain
		Inches	Inches	Inches	Day of month		
January ...	92	3.72	0.12	0.62	17	27	4
February ...	95	3.98	0.14	0.55	19	20	8
March	90	4.73	0.15	0.94	22	26	5
April	84	3.29	0.11	0.96	20	15	15
May	87	2.18	0.07	0.48	26	13	18
June	85	1.27	0.04	0.33	9	11	19
July	87	3.23	0.10	0.63	3	19	12
August... ..	88	4.39	0.14	0.96	11	22	9
September ...	85	3.02	0.10	0.71	14	14	16
October	90	1.60	0.05	0.65	20	7	24
November ...	91	9.46	0.31	0.96	5	26	4
December ...	92	9.51	0.36	1.40	4	29	2
For the 12 months	88.8	50.38	0.14	1.4	4th Dec.	229	136

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :	Males	Females	Total	Rate
Legitimate	227	222	449	
Illegitimate	5	10	15	
Total	232	232	464	13.6 per 1,000 of estimated population. Adjusted rate 14.4.
Still Births :				
Legitimate	6	4	10	
Illegitimate	2	1	3	
Total	8	5	13	27 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Deaths	272	308	580	16.9 per 1,000 of estimated population. Adjusted rate 14.9.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :				
Legitimate	4	9	13	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Total	4	9	13	28 per 1,000 live births.
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :				
Legitimate	4	6	10	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Total	4	6	10	22 per 1,000 live births.
Maternal Deaths	—	1	1	2.10 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Excess of Deaths over Live Births	40	76	116	

TOTAL DEATHS FROM VARIOUS CAUSES DURING 1951
WITH EQUIVALENT DEATH RATES.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total	Death Rate
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	2	6	00.17
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	1	1	2	00.06
3. Syphilitic disease	—	2	2	00.06
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	00.00
5. Whooping Cough	—	1	1	00.03
6. Meningococcal infections	—	1	1	00.03
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	00.00
8. Measles	—	—	—	00.00
9. Other infectious and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	00.00
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	7	14	00.41
11. " " lung, bronchus	8	2	10	00.29
12. " " breast	—	8	8	00.23
13. " " uterus	—	2	2	00.06
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	21	18	39	01.14
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—	1	00.03
16. Diabetes	—	3	3	00.09
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	37	44	81	02.36
18. Coronary disease, angina	40	25	65	01.90
19. Hypertension with heart disease	7	16	23	00.67
20. Other heart disease	51	63	114	03.33
21. Other circulatory diseases	13	12	25	00.73
22. Influenza	8	9	17	00.50
23. Pneumonia	7	14	21	00.61
24. Bronchitis	23	18	41	01.20
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	4	5	9	00.26
26. Ulcers of stomach or duodenum	7	2	9	00.26
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1	00.03
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	6	8	14	00.14
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3	00.09
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	1	1	00.03
31. Congenital malformations	—	1	1	00.03
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	24	39	01.14
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	4	5	00.15
34. All other accidents	6	8	14	00.41
35. Suicide	2	6	8	00.23
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	00.00
All Causes	272	308	580	16.94

DEATHS FROM VARIOUS CAUSES AND EQUIVALENT DEATH RATES
FOR 1951, 1950, AND THE DIFFERENCE.

Cause of Death	1951		1950		Difference	
	Total Deaths	Death Rate per 1000 pop'n.	Total Deaths	Death Rate per 1000 pop'n.	Total Deaths	Death Rate per 1000 pop'n.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	6	00·17	13	00·37	7	00·20
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	2	00·06	—	00·00	2	00·06
3. Syphilitic disease	2	00·06	2	00·06	—	—
4. Diphtheria.....	—	00·00	—	00·00	—	—
5. Whooping Cough.....	1	00·03	—	00·00	1	00·03
6. Meningococcal infections.....	1	00·03	—	00·00	1	00·03
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	00·00	—	00·00	—	—
8. Measles	—	00·00	1	00·03	1	00·03
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	00·00	2	00·06	2	00·06
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	14	00·41	17	00·49	3	00·08
11. " " lung, bronchus	10	00·29	9	00·26	1	00·03
12. " " breast	8	00·23	7	00·20	1	00·03
13. " " uterus	2	00·06	7	00·20	5	00·14
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	39	01·14	47	01·35	8	00·21
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	00·03	—	00·00	1	00·03
16. Diabetes.....	3	00·09	7	00·20	4	00·11
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	81	02·36	93	02·68	12	00·32
18. Coronary disease, angina	65	01·90	64	01·85	1	00·05
19. Hypertension with heart disease	23	00·67	8	00·23	15	00·43
20. Other heart disease	114	03·33	123	03·55	9	00·22
21. Other circulatory diseases	25	00·73	23	00·66	2	00·07
22. Influenza	17	00·50	8	00·23	9	00·27
23. Pneumonia	21	00·61	11	00·32	10	00·29
24. Bronchitis	41	01·20	37	01·07	4	00·13
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	9	00·26	5	00·14	4	00·12
26. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	9	00·26	5	00·14	4	00·12
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	00·03	1	00·03	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	14	00·41	8	00·23	6	00·18
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	00·09	2	00·06	1	00·03
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	1	00·03	2	00·06	1	00·03
31. Congenital malformations	1	00·03	1	00·03	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	39	01·14	39	01·12	—	00·02
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	5	00·15	1	00·03	4	00·12
34. All other accidents	14	00·41	12	00·35	2	00·06
35. Suicide	8	00·23	9	00·26	1	00·03
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	00·00	—	00·00	—	—
All Causes	580	16·94	564	16·26	16	00·68

Estimated population: 1951—34,240.
1950—34,670.

SUMMARY OF AGES AT DEATH.

Age Groups		Deaths in Nelson		Outward Transfers		Inward Transfers		Total Deaths Allocated to Nelson			% of each group to Total Deaths
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Total	
Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2	3	—	—	2	6	4	9	13	2.3
Over 2	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	0.3
" 5	10	1	1	1	—	1	1	2	2	4	0.7
" 10	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	0.2
" 15	20	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 20	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	0.5
" 25	30	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
" 30	35	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	0.2
" 35	40	2	2	—	—	2	—	4	5	9	0.3
" 40	45	3	5	—	—	1	5	4	10	14	1.6
" 45	50	6	5	—	—	3	2	7	5	12	2.4
" 50	55	8	3	2	—	9	2	17	11	28	2.1
" 55	60	14	11	—	2	8	10	22	23	45	4.8
" 60	65	23	15	—	2	11	9	34	30	64	7.8
" 65	70	32	22	2	1	11	9	41	36	77	11.0
" 70	75	30	30	1	3	11	9	40	65	105	13.3
" 75	80	42	50	2	5	9	20	49	55	104	18.1
" 80	85	22	48	—	—	10	7	32	32	64	17.9
" 85	90	6	31	—	4	6	5	12	14	26	11.0
" 90	95	—	6	—	—	—	2	—	6	6	4.5
"	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.0
TOTALS		194	246	8	16	86	80	272	308	580	100.0

MONTHLY ANALYSIS OF DEATHS SHOWING RATES.

Month	Actual Deaths in Nelson		Outward Transfers		Inward Transfers		Net Deaths for Nelson			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Number			Rate per 1000 pop'n.
							M	F	Total	
January... ..	30	43	1	3	13	9	42	49	91	31.8
February	23	39	1	2	12	10	34	47	81	28.4
March	18	23	1	3	8	7	25	27	52	18.2
April	17	19	—	1	8	8	25	26	51	17.8
May	17	17	2	—	6	7	21	24	45	15.8
June	9	19	—	—	5	6	14	25	39	13.7
July	10	13	—	1	9	3	19	15	34	11.9
August	7	16	1	3	3	4	9	17	26	9.11
September	13	12	—	—	2	12	15	24	39	13.7
October... ..	12	16	—	3	9	5	21	18	39	13.7
November	20	13	2	2	2	3	20	14	34	11.9
December	18	16	—	—	9	6	27	22	49	17.2
Totals	194	246	8	18	86	80	272	308	580	16.9

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Infants' Deaths of various age periods and comparison with 1950.

Age Groups	1950			1951		
	No. of deaths	% of Infant Deaths	Mortality Rate per 1000 births	No. of deaths	% of Infant Deaths	Mortality Rate per 1000 births
Under 1 day	2	33.3	4.0	7	53.8	15.0
Over 1 day and under 2 days	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 2 " " " 3 "	—	—	—	1	7.6	2.1
" 3 " " " 4 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 4 " " " 5 "	1	16.6	2.0	1	7.6	2.1
" 5 " " " 6 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 6 " " " 7 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total under 1 week	3	50.0	6.1	9	69.2	19.3
Over 1 week and under 2 weeks	1	16.6	2.0	—	—	—
" 2 " " " 3 "	1	16.6	2.0	1	7.6	2.1
" 3 " " " 4 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total under 1 month	5	83.3	10.2	10	76.9	21.5
Over 1 month and under 3 months	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 3 " " " 6 "	1	16.6	2.0	1	7.6	2.1
" 6 " " " 9 "	—	—	—	2	15.3	4.3
" 9 " " " 12 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total deaths	6	100.0	12.2	13	100.0	28.0

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING MATERNAL MORTALITY FOR 1951.

(Nelson figures added to Provisional Figures based on quarterly returns and supplied by the Registrar General).

Cause	England and Wales		Nelson	
	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births
Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	70	0.10	—	—
Abortion with toxæmia	3	0.00	—	—
Other toxæmia of pregnancy and the puerperium	167	0.24	—	—
Hæmorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	91	0.13	—	—
Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	37	0.05	1	2.10
Abortion with sepsis	66	0.09	—	—
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	—	—

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY FOR 1951.

(Nelson figures added to Provisional figures based on quarterly returns and supplied by Registrar-General.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Nelson
RATES PER 1,000 HOME POPULATION					
Births :					
Live Births	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8	13.6 *
Still Births	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37	0.37
Deaths :					
All causes	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1	16.94 +
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38	0.23
Influenza	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23	0.50
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio-encephalitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61	0.61
RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.					
Deaths :					
All causes under 1 year of age ...	29.6 (a)	33.9	27.6	26.4	28
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7	—

* Comparability figure 1.06. Adjusted figure 14.4 per 1,000.

+ Comparability figure 0.88. Adjusted figure 14.9 per 1,000.

(a) Per 1,000 related Live Births.

TABLE SHOWING VARIOUS NELSON RATES FOR THE YEARS 1946-1951 AND THE AVERAGE OF THE 5 YEARS 1946-1950

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1951	464	*13.6	580	*16.9	13	27	1	2.10	13	28	10	22
Year 1950	490	14.1	564	16.3	5	10	2	4.04	6	12	5	10
Year 1949	478	13.8	548	15.9	14	28	Nil	Nil	17	36	—	—
Year 1948	567	16.4	520	15.0	15	25	Nil	Nil	23	40	—	—
Year 1947	667	20.1	497	14.9	11	16	1	1.47	27	40	—	—
Year 1946	531	16.2	494	15.1	28	50	Nil	Nil	15	28	—	—
Average 5 years— 1946-1950	—	16.1	—	15.5	—	26	—	1.07	—	32	—	—

* Adjusted (live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.06) = 14.4 per 1,000

(death-rate (comparability factor, 0.88) = 14.9 per 1,000

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Particulars of the Health Department Staff are given on page 4 of this report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The services of the Central Pathological Laboratory, Salus Street, Burnley, are at the disposal of the department and during the year the following specimens were received from local medical practitioners and submitted on their behalf to this laboratory.

Blood — for count	2
for Rhesus Estimation	1
for Wasserman Test	20
Faeces	62
Pus Smears	2
Sputum	48
Swabs — gums	4
nasal	2
throat	23
vaginal	2
others	9
Urethral discharge	1
Urines—General examination	18
Pregnancy Test	56
Tubercle bacilli	1
Total	251

HOSPITALS.

The Hospital Services for the Borough are provided by the Burnley and District Hospital Management Committee of the N.W. Regional Hospital Board.

V.D. CLINICS.

These are provided by the Burnley and District Hospital Management Committee at the Victoria Hospital, Burnley.

OTHER SERVICES.

The Lancashire County Council provide and maintain the following services: Ambulance service, Home Help service, Nursing in the home, Orthopaedic, Dental, Ophthalmic, Ante-

natal, Post-natal and Minor Ailments Clinics; Day Nurseries, Institutional Provision for Care of the Mental Defective and the Care of Premature Infants.

TUBERCULOSIS SERVICE.

The Chest Clinic for the area is situate at Reedyford Hospital, Nelson.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. This is very different from the year 1944 when 8 cases died.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 61 cases of scarlet fever. These occurred in the early part of the year and were a relic of the end of the previous year. Fortunately this was of a very mild nature.

MEASLES.

The outbreak of 1950 continued into the early part of 1951. There were all told 190 cases.

WHOOPING COUGH.

There were 45 cases throughout the year with 1 death.

PNEUMONIA.

There were 36 cases with 21 deaths. This is always a serious condition for young or old. Penicillin and the Sulphanilamides have much reduced its almost fatal effect.

MENINGOCOCCAL FEVER.

One case was notified which died.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

2 cases, fortunately without any fatal results.

DYSENTERY.

Nelson had 18 cases of dysentery chiefly of the Sonn  type.

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

Disease	Total Cases	AGE PERIODS									Number removed to hosp'l.	Deaths
		Under 1	1 —	3 —	5 —	10 —	15 —	25 —	45 —	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever ...	61	—	2	13	36	6	3	1	—	—	29	—
Measles ...	190	3	43	82	58	2	1	1	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	45	4	13	17	10	—	—	1	—	—	5	1
Pneumonia ...	36	1	2	1	3	—	4	10	7	8	—	21
Puerperal pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal infection ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Acute poliomyelitis-paralytic	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Dysentery ...	18	—	—	3	4	—	1	4	5	1	2	—
Food Poisoning ...	13	—	—	1	1	2	—	4	4	1	2	—
TOTALS ...	368	8	61	117	113	10	10	22	17	10	43	23

A detailed comparison with the previous year is as follows:—

	Cases Notified		Cases removed to hospital		Deaths	
	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951
Scarlet Fever	52	61	31	29	—	—
Measles	577	190	13	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	247	45	14	5	—	1
Pneumonia	10	36	—	—	11	21
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	—	1	—	—
Meningococcal infection ...	—	1	—	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis —						
paralytic	—	2	—	2	—	—
Dysentery	2	18	1	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	13	—	2	—	—
Totals ...	892	368	59	43	12	23

INFECTIOUS DISEASES — NOTIFICATIONS.

COMPARISON OF CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN DISEASES NOTIFIED
DURING 1951.

(Nelson figures added to figures supplied by Registrar-General)

Notifications (Corrected)	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
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RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal Infection...	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10	1.78
Whooping Cough	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11	1.31
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64	5.54
Pneumonia	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72	1.05
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis):					
Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.05
Non-paralytic	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23	0.38

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 62 dwellinghouses involving 68 rooms have been fumigated, and 771 articles of bedding and wearing apparel 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.

During the year 35 new cases were notified, 22 respiratory cases (14 males and 8 females) and 13 non-respiratory cases (6 males and 7 females). This is an increase of 7 cases on the figure for 1950.

Analysis of the new cases and deaths from the disease according to age groups and sex is given in the following table:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 2 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
2 to 5 years ...	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	1
5 to 10 years ...	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years ...	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years ...	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years ...	—	2	2	1	—	1	—	—
35 to 45 years ...	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
45 to 55 years ...	3	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
55 to 65 years ...	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 to 75 years ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	14	8	6	7	4	2	1	1
	22		13		6		2	

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

Pulmonary	Males 86	Females 45	Total 131
Non-pulmonary ...	Males 25	Females 42	Total 67

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 tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 — SECTION 172.

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

PART II.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

by

W. L. KAY, Esq., F.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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 taken regularly and submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination.

During the year 52 bacteriological and 4 chemical examinations have been made of raw water. Of the 52 bacteriological samples 34 were positive and 18 were negative and the whole of the 4 chemical analyses were satisfactory. 53 bacteriological examinations were made of water going into supply where treatment is installed, results obtained were 1 positive and 52 negative. There were also 4 chemical analyses all of which gave satisfactory results. Immediately the result of the positive sample was obtained remedial action was taken by "stepping-up" chlorination.

10 analyses have been made in respect of plumbo-solvent action which yielded lead content figures ranging from nil parts per million to .04 parts per million.

Water is supplied to other districts adjacent to Nelson and in Nelson 12,399 dwelling houses are supplied direct from public mains covering an estimated population of 34,690. There are no private water supplies. Neither are any dwelling-houses supplied by means of stand pipes. 38 new houses have been connected to the mains during the year. Extensions to the water mains during the year were confined to the Marsden Park Housing Scheme and were proceeding at the end of the year.

A shortage of water is experienced in a number of areas due to the houses therein being served by a joint service pipe, which over the passage of the years has become ineffective. The Corporation are dealing with this problem by way of financial assistance to the owners of these properties and during the period under review 165 houses in 13 rows of property have been provided with separate service pipes. The intention is to progressively cover the town until ultimately each house has a separate service pipe.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

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.

Work of relaying the sewer in Walverden Valley, commenced in 1950, was completed during the year and two filters have been rebuilt at the Sewerage Works.

The estimated dry weather flow of sewage is 2,100,000 gallons per day. The water carriage system is in use throughout the town, and 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 ejectors at the works.

There are only a few isolated areas in the more rural parts of the district which are not provided with a public sewer. At the end of the year consideration was being given to this problem.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Lancashire Rivers Board are responsible for dealing with rivers and streams in the area.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of middens	10
Number of closets attached to these middens	10
Number of pail closets	22
Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens)	5
Number of movable ashbins	12,740
Number of trough closets	81
Number of waste water closets	7,066
Number of fresh water closets	5,862
Number of houses on water carriage system	12,370
Conversions during the year :	
Number of waste water closets to fresh water closets	141

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse is collected weekly from portable dustbins at 12,740 dwelling-houses and other properties and is conveyed by means of covered vehicles to the Corporation's incineration plant at the Charles Street Depot. Disposal is by separation, screening and incineration. Bi-weekly collections are made of kitchen waste from communal bins and trade premises. Street cleansing and street gulley emptying are carried out by vehicles specially designed for that purpose.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

With the increase in the inspectorate as from June onwards it became possible to give attention to many more aspects of environmental hygiene. Indeed the number of inspections of all kinds made during 1951 was more than double the 1950 figure, i.e., 6,525 as against 2,929. This despite the great deal of time taken up with the organisation of the Clean Food Exhibition and Health Education Work generally.

An encouraging feature is the great increase in the number of townspeople making use of the services of the department. The number of interviews rose from 180 in 1950 to 674 in 1951. These interviews were concerned in the main with property repairs and with advice to tradespeople on the upgrading of their premises.

ANALYTICAL TABLE OF INSPECTIONS.

Atmospheric Pollution Recordings	198
Bakehouses	142
Boiler Plants Inspected	47
Butchers Shops	38
Canal Boats	2
Closets—Water	14
Closets—Waste Water	8
Closets—Pail	7
Complaints Received	458
Complaints Confirmed	401
Dairies, Milkshops and Milkstores	6
Drains Inspected	92
Drains Smoke Tested	6
Drains Olfactory Tested	3
Drains Colour Tested	58
Drains Water Tested	1
Farms	12
Fish Frying Establishments	56
Food Preserved Manufacturers	46
Food Catering Establishments	56
Food Shops and Warehouses	32
Factories (a) Power	39
Factories (b) Non-power	6
Factory Canteens	1
Houses Defective	155
Houses Detailed Inspection	19
Houses Let in Lodgings	1
Houses Overcrowding	9
Ice-Cream Manufacturers	43
Ice-Cream Retailers	108
Infectious Diseases	143
Interviews	674
Markets	6
Meat and Food Inspections	192
Meat and Food Condemnations	157
Meetings with Owners	14
Meetings with Contractors	35
Miscellaneous Visits	147

Notices Served :

Verbal	83
Informal	347
Statutory P.H.A.	51
Offensive Accumulations	7
Piggeries	18
Police Court Cases	5
Rag Flock Premises	9
Rodent Control	22

Samples Taken :

Ice-Cream	55
Milk Biological	73
Milk Methylene Blue	78
Milk Phosphatase Test	1
Other Foods	10
Milk Utensil Rinse Tests	3
Water, etc.	1
Slaughter Houses	6
Schools	4
Shops Act	4
Smoke Observations	343
Tents, Vans and Sheds	3
Verminous Premises	18
Verminous Articles	1
Visits re Food Poisoning Cases	4
Workplaces	5
Re-inspections and Re-visits	1722

SHOPS ACT.

Duties under this Act are carried out by the Shops Inspector.

CAMPING SITES AND MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

There are no permanent sites or movable dwellings licensed in this area.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Here again it has been possible to devote very much more time to this most important work. The smoke observations made rose from 56 in 1950 to 343 in 1951. In all instances the

period of observation was half an hour. An analysis of these figures in relation to excessive emissions of black smoke, shows the following results:—

- 2 in excess of 25 minutes but less than 30 minutes.
- 2 in excess of 20 minutes but less than 25 minutes.
- 5 in excess of 15 minutes but less than 20 minutes.
- 10 in excess of 10 minutes but less than 15 minutes.
- 30 in excess of 5 minutes but less than 10 minutes.
- 55 in excess of 2 minutes but less than 5 minutes.

With the whole-hearted support of the Health Committee efforts continued during the year to obtain smoke bye-laws. Unhappily these efforts were unsuccessful. It was decided, therefore, that the only alternative was to fall back on the educational approach and towards the end of the year steps were being taken to establish a local Smoke Abatement Advisory Committee, embracing not only Nelson but the adjoining Urban Districts of Brierfield and Barrowford. This Committee, comprising representatives from all walks of life, will be concerned with reducing atmospheric pollution in the area.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION — RAPID SURVEY.

It was felt that action should be taken to form some estimation of the extent and distribution of atmospheric pollution within the Borough. Accordingly arrangements were made to make a Rapid Comprehensive Atmospheric Pollution Survey. This took the following form:—

The district was divided into quarter of a mile square areas, in each of which was placed a standard 2lb. jam jar. This jam jar was left exposed for a period of one week. At the end of this period the jars were collected and transferred to the Borough Analyst's Laboratory at Burnley, where the degree of pollution was established by weight in kilogrammes. The first such survey was made in February and the second was made in April-May, the second period extending over two weeks. From the figures thus obtained, a contour map in colour was prepared. This shows at a glance the distribution of atmospheric pollution within the Borough and should be of advantage from a planning angle. Figures obtained varied

from deposits of 100 tons per square mile per annum in the moorland areas (actually the site of our Open Air School) to 1,040 tons per square mile in the central industrial zone.

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 properties within the Borough is carried out by use of gaseous methods and residual spray, the agents used being formulations of D.D.T. and Gammexane. The whole of this work being carried out by the department's staff under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

1 Corporation house and 27 private houses were found to be affected by varying forms of insect infestation during the year and were subjected to treatment on the lines indicated above.

RODENT CONTROL.

375 inspections were made during the year. These revealed that 171 properties were infested with rats and 79 infested with mice. These properties were treated by the Corporation's Rodent Operative.

SCHOOLS.

Generally speaking, the conditions of the schools within the Borough are unsatisfactory as regards sanitary accommodation and adequate washing facilities. During the year, however, improvements were carried out at the Textile School of the Technical College and at the Bradley Senior Modern School. At the Textile School two additional water closets were provided, whilst eight additional water closets were provided for the senior girls at the Bradley Senior Modern School.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are now no offensive trades, the former offensive trade of gut scraping having been discontinued.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

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

Defects	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Legal Action
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	1	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	39	3	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—

(2) Cases in which defects were found :

Defects	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Legal Action
Unreasonable temperature ...	1	1	—	1	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
Unsuitable or defective	6	3	—	5	—
Total	7	4	—	6	—

(3) Outwork : No notification of outworkers has been received.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS AND UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS.

There are no such premises in the Borough.

CANAL BOATS.

Visits have been paid from time to time to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and on 2 occasions boats were intercepted on passage through Nelson and found on inspection to comply with current legislation.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

This Act came into operation on the 1st November, 1951, and enabled the department to exercise greater control of premises in which these materials are used. This was achieved by the operation of the provisions of the Act requiring such premises to be registered by and with the Local Authority.

Owing to the fact that the Act only came into operation at the close of the year work thereunder was restricted to visits of inspection in connection with registration of such premises under the Act. Nine such visits were made. It is most regrettable that the Act does not extend to remaking or re-conditioning, for obviously there is a need for control of these activities.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

Undoubtedly the chief sanitary requirement of the district is the conversion of the 7,066 waste water closets to the fresh water system. The Health Committee have this problem very much in mind.

HOUSING.

Number of houses erected during the year :

	Prefabricated	Traditional Permanent	Flats
(i) By Local Authority	—	8	20
(ii) By other Local Authorities ...	—	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons ...	—	3	—

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :

(i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects	213
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1178
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses included above which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations	Nil
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	213

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

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	163
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Action under statutory powers :

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of Housing Act, 1936 :
- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
 - (ii) Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit :—
 - (a) By owners Nil
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 45
 - (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners 18
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 (Demolition) Nil
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 (Underground rooms) Nil

Overcrowding :

Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Not known
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
Number of persons concerned in such cases	4

Housing Act, 1949 :

Number of schemes submitted :

(a) by private individuals to local authority	1
(b) by local authority to Ministry	1
Number of dwelling-houses affected	2
Number of schemes approved by Ministry	1

Number of dwelling-houses affected	1
Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these approved schemes	2
Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year	1
Any other action taken ... Improvements in progress at the remaining house.	

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Nelson is fortunate in that it is a relatively modern town. As such it has not the slum areas which afflict other industrial towns. The problem in Nelson is rather one of maintenance and upgrading. Due to shortage of staff it has not been possible to carry out house-to-house inspections. If and when it is possible to make such inspections, I have no doubt that we will find many more houses requiring repair.

Nevertheless, within the limitations referred to above it was possible to effect a good number of repairs to dwelling-houses which must have made for better housing conditions for our citizens. The average man spends the bulk of his time in his home and a sound, weatherproof house can contribute much to the happiness of family life.

The following tables give details of the repairs and improvements during the year.

DEFECTS FOUND IN DWELLING-HOUSES DURING 1950, CARRIED FORWARD TO 1951 AND ABATED IN 1951.

Defective troughings	23
Defective pointing of walls	41
Defective chimney stacks	13
Defective roofs	29
Defective ventilation pipe	1
Defective ventilation grates	2
Defective downspouts	16
Defective yard surfaces	6
Defective stonework of external walls	1
Defective flashings	4
Defective dishbrick	1
Defective wallplaster	38
Defective ceiling plaster	16

Defective floorboards	8
Defective flagged floors	3
Defective sinks	2
Defective hot-water supply tank	1
Defective sink waste pipes	8
Defective staircase	1
Defective window frames	25
Defective window cords	11
Rising dampness	2
Defective doors	3
Defective handrail on stairs	1
Defective skirting boards	1
Defective fire-range	1
Defective fire-back or grate	2
Defective w.w.c. apartments	5
Defective w.w.c. apartments door frames	5
Defective w.w.c. apartments doors	2
Defective waste water closets and water closets ...	3

Total 276

DEFECTS DISCOVERED IN 1951 AND ABATED DURING THE YEAR.

Defective eaves gutters	35
Defective pointing of walls	22
Defective chimney stacks	3
Defective roofs	9
Defective downspouts	15
Defective yard surfaces	10
Defective stonework of external walls	1
Defective wallplaster	33
Defective ceiling plaster	15
Defective floorboards	4
Defective floor (stone/cement)	1
Defective sinks/wash basins	8
Defective water-cistern/pipe/tanks	2
Defective sink waste pipes	6
Defective staircase	1
Defective window frames	27
Defective window cords	8

Rising dampness	1
Defective doors	2
Defective fire-range/grate/back	6
Defective fire-back boiler	1
Defective drains	9
Defective door steps	1
Choked gulley	1
Dirty room and/or bedding	1
Overcrowding	2
Defective w.w.c. buildings	15
Defective w.w.c. door frames	3
Defective w.w.c. doors	3
Defective waste water closet/water closets	15
Total	260

SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES.

Despite rising rents there is still a demand for more houses for the working classes in Nelson.

The estimated requirements are as follows :

3 bedroom type houses	350
2 bedroom type houses	175
1 bedroom type houses	75

The Corporation are to be congratulated in providing houses at rentals which in many cases are 10/- a week below houses in other comparable areas. This question of providing housing accommodation at rentals which the ordinary working man can afford to pay is most important.

OVERCROWDING.

The last complete survey of overcrowding in the Borough was made in 1936. Due to staffing difficulties already referred to it has not been possible to carry out a further survey. It is not, therefore, possible to say what the overcrowding position is in the Borough. It is, however, known that there have been considerable population movements during the intervening years and there is no doubt that the economic position must have inevitably contributed to the overcrowding of existing houses.

During the year 9 cases of suspected overcrowding which were brought to the notice of the department were investigated. Only 3 of these 9 cases proved on investigation to be cases of statutory overcrowding. There are, however, no grounds for complacency as the statutory standard of overcrowding is very low, i.e., it is based on habitable rooms and not on a bedroom standard. Of the 3 cases so found one was abated and in the other two cases notices were served calling for the abatement of overcrowding. In view of the human problems involved in the legal abatement of overcrowding the position is fraught with difficulties.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Sampling record cards have been constructed in respect of all producers and distributors within the Borough. The card affords a complete history of the standards obtaining. Our object is to sample at least twice yearly all milk produced and distributed within the township.

BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING.

Whilst we have almost doubled the number of milk samples taken for biological examination this year as compared with 1950, I would like to see a still further increase as this form of sampling affords a most valuable form of control of bovine tuberculosis. Unfortunately our activities are restricted by the shortage of guinea pigs.

Details of the results of these samples are as follows:—

(a) Raw Milk	No. of samples.	Results.
(i) Tuberculosis—biological tests ...	71 ...	69 negative, 2 positive.
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test ...	71 ...	49 satisfactory, 22 unsatisfactory.
(b) "Heat Treated" Milk		
" Pasteurised "—		
(i) Phosphatase test ...	1 ...	1 unsatisfactory.
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test ...	7 ...	6 satisfactory, 1 unsatisfactory.
" Sterilised "—		
(iii) Tuberculosis	2 ...	2 negative, Nil positive.

Number of notifications of tuberculous milk forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in respect of (a) milk produced in the district, 4; (b) milk produced in other districts, nil.

Results of Ministry investigations *within the district* during the year arising from notifications by the local authority:—

No. of veterinary inspections	7
No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938	4
No. of cases reported negative where animals had been sold prior to investigation	Nil
No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized	Nil

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and as a result were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed under supervision.

Product	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Apricots		1	0	5	2
Apples			2	4	9
Beans				22	6½
Beetroot				1	12½
Blancmange				1	8
Bacon bones	1	0		18	0
Blackberries					10
Blackcurrants				1	4
Bilberries				1	0
Beef			2	19	0
Butter				5	2
Cooked Ham	10	2		19	14¾
Carrots				20	10
Calves Foot Jelly					10½
Cherries	1	0		12	2
Cheese			2	2	12
Coffee				1	12

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Crab				4	2½
Custard			3	5	0
Fish			3	11	5½
Fowl	1	0		7	14
Fruit Juices				1	4
Gooseberries				1	4
Grapefruit				12	3
Grapenuts and Cereals				21	0
Greengages	1	1		10	14½
Lobster					4
Luncheon Meat	2	2		12	15½
Minced Beef Loaf				16	12
Milk	2	0		1	8
Mixed Vegetables				1	3
Mutton				4	8
Oranges			2	23	5
Peaches	1	0		16	10
Pears	1	0		11	10
Peas			3	6	13
Pineapple				16	13
Plums	1	3		9	13
Potatoes	5	0		0	0
Prawns				15	0
Prunes				4	13
Rabbits			2	24	0
Raspberries				4	11
Salmon	1	1		6	15
Sardines					13½
Shrimps					8
Strawberries				18	6
Steak Pudding				2	0
Stewed Steak				12	0
Soup				25	14½
Sweet Foods				7	4
Syrup				4	0
Tomatoes			3	20	15½
Tongue				6	0
Totals ...	2	0	0	12	9

Whilst slaughtering of animals is carried out at the Colne Abattoir, this department is responsible for the inspection of the carcasses of cottagers' pigs and 30 such carcasses were inspected during the year.

Inspection of carcasses is facilitated by the liaison which exists between the department and the Ministry of Food.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

The start made during 1950 on the systematic inspection of food premises continued, priority being given to what were considered "high risk food trades." The following trades received attention: Ice-Cream Premises, Preserved Food Premises, Fried Fish Shops, Bakehouses and Catering Premises. As a result of this detailed inspection and due to the splendid co-operation of the trade, considerable structural improvements were carried out leading to a marked upgrading. Special attention was given to the provision of a constant supply of hot water and opportunity was taken during the course of the inspection to discuss food hygiene informally with food handlers and to stress the necessity for strict personal cleanliness. This was followed by a series of lectures for food handlers held under the auspices of the Nelson College of Further Education. The keynote of the lectures was to put across basic principles of food hygiene in an interesting manner. This was done by the use of films, the display of specimens of unsound food, examples of insect and rodent infestations and the new forms of insecticidal control.

During the year the Corporation adopted new food byelaws. In this connection interpretation sheets were prepared for each individual trade and circulated along with a copy of the byelaws and a specimen plastic plaque "Now Wash Your Hands" to each food trader in the town. Altogether some 460 traders were so circulated. It was felt that this action would assist traders in complying with the byelaws. The following analytical table gives details of the trades circulated.

Grocers' Shops	145
Bakers and Confectionery Shops	105
Butchers' Shops	60
Greengrocers' Shops	45
Fried Fish Shops	34
Factory Canteens	24
Licensed Premises	13
Cafes and Restaurants	13
Bakehouses	11
Tripe and Cooked Meat Shops	8
Mobile Stores	2

DEFECTS FOUND IN FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES DURING 1950,
CARRIED FORWARD TO 1951 AND ABATED IN 1951.

Defective walls	22
Defective ceilings	11
Dirty walls/ceilings	14
Insufficient ventilation	5
Insufficient lighting	2
Insufficient drainage	1
Absence/insufficient supply of hot water	7
Defective floor boards	2
Defective floors (stone or cement)	7
Defective windows	1
Absence of sanitary accommodation	1
Defective water closet	1
Dirty water closets	3
Absence of suitable sinks	2
Defective sinks	2
Defective sink waste-pipes	2
Waste bins not provided	3
Nail brush and towels not provided	5
Open fuel stores	2
Absence of lockers for outdoor clothes	2
Insufficient storage facilities	1
Insufficient cleansing facilities	1

DEFECTS FOUND IN FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES IN 1951 AND
ABATED DURING THE YEAR.

Dirty walls/ceilings	32
Absence of lockers for outdoor clothing	3
Defective walls/ceilings	77
Absence of soap, towels, etc.	3
Absence of separate food preparation room	1
Insufficient refuse accommodation	1
Insufficient fuel accommodation	11
Dirty fittings and fixtures, etc.	3
Defective floors	19
Defective tables	2
Insufficient drainage	3
Defective drainage	2
Defective roofs	4
Defective sinks	17
Defective sink boards	2
Defective sink waste-pipes	9
Absence of protective clothing	2
Absence of constant supply of hot water	14
Insufficient storage bins/accommodation	11
Absence of wash-basins	4
Dirty w.c. accommodation	5
Insufficient lighting	3
Defective water closets	2
Defective window frames	4
Defective window slabs	2
Defective window sashcords	1
Food preparation room used for domestic purposes	5
Defective oven	1
Insufficient ventilation	7

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The Lancashire County Council are responsible for the administration of the Food and Drugs Acts in Nelson. The following table, supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health, gives details of samples taken in Nelson by the County Staff.

A total of 176 samples was obtained, of these 108 were of milk and the 68 others comprised :—

3 gravy browning	3 whisky
1 gelatine	1 tea cake
2 cornflour	1 pepper flavoured compound
1 sauce	1 glycerine of borax
1 tomato ketchup	6 ice cream
1 syrup	2 honey
2 arrowroot	2 bottled fruit
2 zinc ointment	1 golden raising powder
1 apricot, jam	1 margarine
1 raspberry, jam	1 cooking fat
3 borax	1 pudding mixture, sweetened
2 coffee	1 custard powder
1 Nescafe	1 dressed crab, canned
1 cake and pudding mixture, sweetened	2 flour
2 syrup of figs, compound	1 mayonnaise
2 curry powder	1 lard
1 vinegar, malt	3 borax ointment
2 mineral water	1 sage and onion stuffing
1 sardines, canned	1 table jelly
1 chocolate, drinking	1 semolina
2 malt and cocoa beverage	1 blanc-mange powder
1 Hovis Bread	1 beef sausage

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following.

Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
Gravy browning	No declaration of ingredients or net weight or measure. Labelling of Food Order offence	Packers communicated with. Stock withdrawn and relabelled.
1 formal milk	Deficient of 3.3 per cent. fat and slightly low in solids-not-fat	Vendor notified.
1 formal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.1 per cent. extraneous water	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 formal milk	Deficient of 10 per cent. fat...	Vendor notified.
1 ice cream	Fat content only 3.2 per cent.	Formal sample obtained.
1 ice cream	Fat content only 3.5 per cent.	Formal sample obtained.
1 ice cream	Deficient 54 per cent. of the minimum percentage of fat and deficient 38.6 per cent. of the minimum percentage of milk solids other than fat	Prosecution. Vendor fined £10 with 3 gns. costs.
1 ice cream	Deficient of 32 per cent. of the minimum percentage of fat	Prosecution. Vendor fined £10 with 3 gns. costs.
1 formal milk	Deficient of 11.6 per cent. fat.	Vendor notified.
1 informal milk	Deficient of 11.6 per cent. fat.	Vendor notified.
1 Boric ointment	Boric Acid 9.95 per cent. consisted of Boric Acid Ointment B.P. 1932	Vendor communicated with in regard to age of stock.

Provision is made in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for Local Authorities, not being Food and Drug Authorities, to procure samples of food and drugs for analysis. Many Local Authorities exercise this power and it is suggested that this procedure could with advantage be adopted in Nelson.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

The character of local Health Departments has undergone a remarkable change during the last few years. The emphasis has shifted from coercion to co-operation. More and more do sanitary officers rely upon the educational approach rather than punitive measures. Nelson is no exception. Two public health aspects are of outstanding interest to Nelson (a) Food Hygiene, and (b) Smoke Abatement. Advantage was taken of the local Festival of Britain Celebrations to organise a Hygiene Exhibition at which attention was focussed on these twin problems. The underlying idea was (1) to portray the need for action to effect cleaner food and cleaner skies (2) by means of trade exhibits to show the commercial application. After all, it is futile to point out the problem and fail to point out the remedy. In organising the exhibition one object was kept firmly in mind, that the exhibition should have local character. It is manifestly unwise to talk of problems in general terms. What is needed is the local application. That the exhibition was a success is evident from the fact that 4,000 people attended. This during a period of brilliant weather (June 16th-23rd) and in the face of many excellent counter attractions.



