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Newburn Urban District Council  
(County of Northumberland)

ANNUAL  
REPORT

of

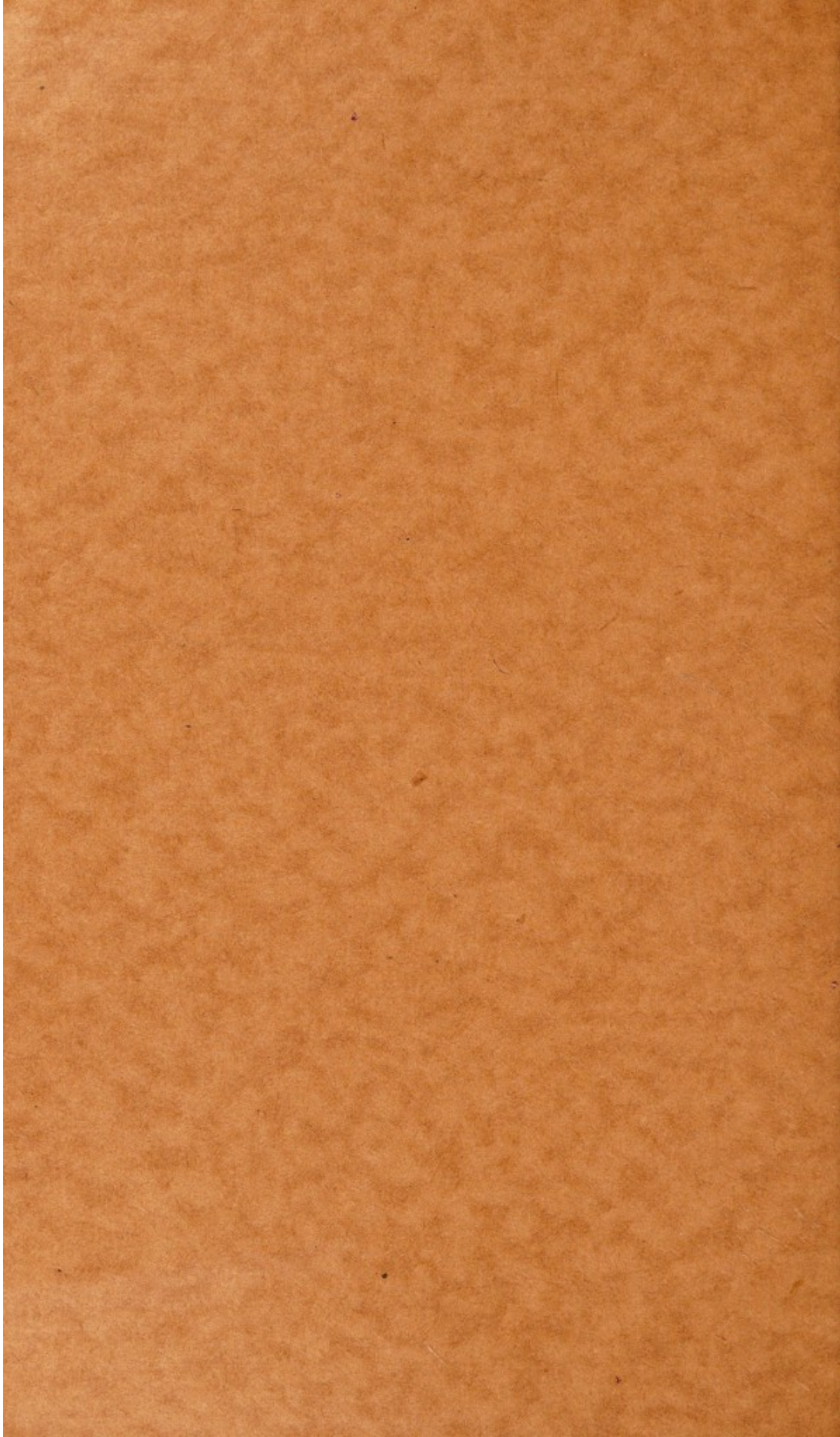
Medical Officer of Health  
and  
Senior Sanitary Inspector

*For the Year 1947*



PELAW-ON-TYNE:  
Co-operative Wholesale Society's Printing Works

1948



Newburn Urban District Council  
(County of Northumberland)

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**REPORT**

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*and*  
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# Officers of the Health Department

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*Medical Officer of Health :*

GUY B. PICTON, M.B., B.S.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

JOHN CORNEY, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E.J. Board.

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors :*

JOSEPH G. SIMPSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E.J. Board

(Appointed March, resigned June, 1947)

GEORGE G. OXLEY, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E.J. Board

(Appointed November, 1947)

*Senior Health Visitor :*

Mrs. L. E. SANDILANDS, Health Visitor's Cert. R.S.I.,

S.R.N., S.C.M.

*Additional Health Visitor :*

Miss M. H. SMITH, Health Visitor's Cert. R.S.I.,

S.R.N., R.F.N.

*Clerks :*

Mrs. I. KEATING.

Miss L. SNAITH.

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ended December 31st, 1947

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*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Newburn Urban District Council.*

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have to submit my Sixth Annual Report for the year 1947 on the work of the Health Department, in accordance with Circular 170/47 issued by the Ministry of Health. Again I have to say that the General Health of the district has been exceptionally good.

## DIPHTHERIA.

There were only 9 cases.

## SCARLET FEVER.

There were 14 cases.

## WHOOPING COUGH.

There were 71 cases ; there has been a slight outbreak going on all the time.

## MEASLES.

There has been quite a lot of Measles—313 cases.

## TYPHOID OR DYSENTERY.

1 case.

There have only been 2 deaths from all this Infectious Disease, one being a case of Whooping Cough and the other a case of Measles.

## ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

We were fortunate in this area to have only 9 cases notified of which four were finally diagnosed in Hospital as suffering from Poliomyelitis. There was one case of Polio Encephalitis which, unfortunately, resulted in death.

## IMMUNISATION.

We are still carrying this out regularly at the Welfare Clinics and the Schools, and there is no question we are now feeling the benefit of it.

## ANTE NATAL.

Arrangements are the same as before and the patients now do not need much persuasion to attend. During the year there were 357 new patients, and a total of 1,812 visits to the Ante Natal Clinics were made.

### POST NATAL.

There were 11 patients attended for Post Natal treatment. Although notices have been sent out to quite 30 people we only got about a third of them to attend. I suppose they feel quite better and do not bother to come.

### DILSTON PATIENTS.

I would mention that 754 patients attended the Clinic held by Dr. Hart at Throckley.

### ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

There were 15 births during the year, a decrease of 5 on the previous year.

### HOME VISITS.

There were 2,364 visits made by the Health Visitors.

### SCABIES.

There were 24 cases of Scabies, which have been of a slight nature.

### VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES.

As usual we have had a few under our care but I think the fact that they are visited by Mr. Corney and Mr. Whittaker, of the N.S.P.C.C., has kept it down.

### HOME HELPS.

After several attempts to get this good service going we have now definitely succeeded, and the number of Home Helps on the books has been between four and five, which we have been able to keep fairly well employed. It has been much appreciated by the general public.

### CONDITIONS OF STREETS.

I have been greatly struck in the last two or three years when I have been on holiday in Scotland, by the great difference there is in the streets of this area and Newcastle and Durham, compared with those in Scotland. How remarkably clean they are kept there. You know that dirt and filth spread disease. I think our Council try to do their best to keep the streets right up to scratch, but could not the public be educated a little bit more in this matter, and help us?

### VIGILANCE COMMITTEE.

A Vigilance Committee was formed in Glasgow a few years ago in order to try and provide children with playing fields. Children, even between 4 and 5 years of age, are allowed to roam the streets at 11 o'clock at night when they should have been in bed not later than 7 p.m. I am still certain that something can be done in this matter. I am sure the increase in crime, &c., we read of and know about is a lot due to this cause. Another cause is children seeing films at the Picture House which they ought not to see.



SECTION A.

Statistical Summary and Social  
Conditions

*Particulars of District.*

Area (in acres) ... ..	4,649
Registrar General's estimate of population ... ..	20,750
Number of inhabited houses, according to rate books ...	5,993
Sum represented by Penny Rate ... ..	£435
Rateable Value ... ..	£113,132

*Extracts from Vital Statistics.*

	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.
Live Births (legitimate) ... ..	235	233	468
„ „ (illegitimate) ... ..	5	10	15
Still Births ... ..	4	5	9
Deaths... ..	140	86	226
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... ..			23·27
Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births ... ..			18·3
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... ..			10·9

*Deaths from Puerperal causes.*

There were no deaths from Puerperal causes.

*Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.*

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	43·48
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	39·33
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	4·14

*Deaths.*

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	34
„ „ Measles (all ages) ... ..	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	1
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ..	6

### Causes of Death in Newburn Area, 1947.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
ALL CAUSES .. .. .	140	86	226
	Males.	Females.	
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid .. .. .	..	..	
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever .. .. .	1	..	
3. Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	
4. Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	1	
5. Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .. .. .	11	4	
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .	2	..	
8. Syphilitic Diseases .. .. .	..	1	
9. Influenza .. .. .	..	..	
10. Measles .. .. .	1	..	
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis .. .. .	..	1	
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis .. .. .	..	..	
13. Cancer .. .. .	22	12	
14. Diabetes .. .. .	1	1	
15. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions .. .. .	15	9	
16. Heart Disease .. .. .	40	22	
17. Other Diseases of Circulatory System .. .. .	6	1	
18. Bronchitis .. .. .	9	11	
19. Pneumonia .. .. .	7	3	
20. Other Respiratory Diseases .. .. .	1	..	
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .. .. .	..	..	
22. Diarrhœa (under 2 years) .. .. .	2	4	
23. Appendicitis .. .. .	..	..	
24. Other Digestive Diseases .. .. .	3	1	
25. Nephritis .. .. .	2	3	
26. Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis .. .. .	..	..	
27. Other Maternal Causes .. .. .	..	..	
28. Premature Birth .. .. .	1	1	
29. Congenital Malformation Birth Infant ; Disease .. .. .	2	3	
30. Suicide .. .. .	1	1	
31. Road Traffic Accident .. .. .	..	1	
32. Other Violent Causes .. .. .	6	1	
33. All Other Causes .. .. .	7	5	

The main causes of death are again due to Cancer and Heart Disease.

## SECTION B.

1. *Public Health Officials* (see page 3).
2. (a) Laboratory facilities remain the same as in former years.  
(b) Ambulance Services.—This service remains the same as in former years.  
(c) Nursing in the Home.—Apart from a scheme for intensive nursing where necessary in maternity cases, the Home Nursing is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.  
(d) The only treatment centre controlled by this authority is the Sun-ray Clinic.  
(e) There are no hospitals in the area with the exception of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Lemington, administered by the West Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which Board this Council is a constituent member.
3. *Maternity and Child Welfare.*  
No changes have been made during the year.

## SECTIONS C, D, and E.

See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

## SECTION F.

*Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.*

The following tables gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year :—

Number of Cases—Civilians.

DISEASE	0—		1—		3—		5—		10—		15—		25 and over		Age unknown		TOTAL		Hos- pital	Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
	0—		1—		3—		5—		10—		15—		25 and over		Age unknown		TOTAL				
Scarlet Fever	..	..	1	1	1	..	5	2	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	4	..	..	
Whooping Cough	6	2	6	11	12	15	8	8	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	32	39	..	1	
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	
Polio Encephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	
Measles	5	7	39	34	58	47	62	45	2	5	4	5	..	..	..	..	170	143	..	1	
Diphtheria..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	2	..	..	..	5	4	..	..	
DISEASE																					
Acute Pneumonia	..	..	8	3	..	..	8	2	5	6	8	2	4	2	..	..	..	33	15	..	..
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ac. En. Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric or Typhoid	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paratyphoid	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oph. Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

## TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 41 new cases have been notified, 30 pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary.

The following table shows the age distribution of the 41 new cases and of the deaths of persons certified to be due to Tuberculosis.

### Tuberculosis, 1947.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES NOTIFIED				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5 ... ..	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...
5-15... ..	2	...	...	2	...	...	1	...
15-25... ..	5	5	2	...	2	1	...	...
25-35... ..	5	3	2	...	2	...	...	...
35-45... ..	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
45-55... ..	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
55-65... ..	1	1	...	...	3	2	...	...
65 and over	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Age Unknown	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL ... ..	18	12	8	3	11	4	2	...

GUY B. PICTON,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

# Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector (JOHN CORNEY)

*for the Year ended December 31st, 1947*

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To Dr. GUY B. PICTON, M.B., B.S.

SIR,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1947.

I wish to comment again on staffing of the department and to record that Mr. Simpson was with us for only three months, and for the remainder of the year except from November 17th, when Mr. Oxley was appointed, I was without the assistance of an Additional Inspector. This is reflected in the smaller total number of inspections carried out throughout the year as compared with 1946. I trust Mr. Oxley will stay with us longer than previous Additional Inspectors, as too frequent changes tend to impair the efficient working of the department.

## HOUSING.

Although difficulties in both the labour and supply positions continue to restrict our activities, steady progress has been maintained in effecting essential repairs to property. Satisfaction is gained from the knowledge that we are able to mitigate to some extent the effects of unsatisfactory housing conditions.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied to the district by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., and has at all times been satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

All the houses in the area, with the exception of 13, have pipe supplies, the occupants of these 13 houses drawing their supply from stand-pipes.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No major changes have been made in the drainage or sewerage system during the year except where necessary in connection with development of new housing estates.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

At the close of the year there were 6,464 water closets, 23 pail closets, and 41 privies in use in this district.

## COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

The refuse collection and disposal is carried out by the Surveyor's Department.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

#### 1. *Number and Nature of Inspections.*

PREMISES.	VISITS.
• Visits and re-visits under the Public Health Acts and	
Housing Acts....	815
Shops and Food Stores ....	171
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops ....	25
Slaughterhouses ....	—
Tents, Vans, &c. ....	1
Fish Shops....	26
Factories and Workshops ....	55
Keeping of Animals ....	25
Refuse Receptacles ....	125
Offensive Accumulations ....	7
Smoke Nuisances ....	8
	1258
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease ....	41
„ <i>re</i> Disinfection (T.B. Cases) ....	4
„ <i>re</i> Verminous Premises ....	16
	61
Visits <i>re</i> Milk Samples ....	79
„ <i>re</i> Shops Act ....	26
„ <i>re</i> Tenancy of Council Houses ....	10
Miscellaneous Visits ....	140
	255
TOTAL VISITS....	1,574

#### 2. (a) *Statutory Notices.*

Section 9, Housing Act, 1936 ...	9
„ 39, Public Health Act, 1936 ...	8
„ 45, „ „ „ „ ...	6
„ 56, „ „ „ „ ...	4
„ 75, „ „ „ „ ...	5
„ 93, „ „ „ „ ...	2
	34

(b) *Places of Public Entertainment.*

In accordance with Circular 120 of the Ministry of Health, the four cinemas in the district have been periodically visited, and conditions found to be generally satisfactory.

(c) *Meat and Food Inspection.*

Owing to centralised slaughtering of cattle, meat inspection is carried out only periodically at butchers' shops.

The following foodstuffs have been condemned and surrendered :—

Stewed Steak and Kidney	.... 26 cans	Salmon	.... 7 cans
Sausage	.... 3 cans	Evaporated Milk	.... 60 cans
Beans and Peas	.... 41 cans	Corned Beef	.... 4 cans
Carrots	.... 1 can	Pilchards and Sardines	.... 14 cans
Fruit Salad	.... 8 cans	Soup	.... 3 cans
Tongue	.... 2 cans	Roast Beef	.... 1 can
Turkey	.... 1 can	Condensed Milk	.... 1 can
Grapefruit Juice	.... 2 cans	Chicken	.... 45 cans
Cheese	.... 2½ lb.	Forequarter Beef	.... 197 lb.
Weetabix	.... 36 pkts.	Cake and Pudding Mixture	.... 19 pkts.
Dried Egg	.... 1 pkt.	Jam and Chutney	.... 30 jars
Lemon Squash	.... 111 bottles		

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

### PART I OF THE ACT.

1. *Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including Inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors).*

PREMISES	Number on Register.	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by L.A. ..	12	15	..	..
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	32	40	..	..
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises) .. ..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL .. ..	44	55	..	..



2. Cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.) .. .. .	..	..
Overcrowding (S.2.) .. .. .	..	..
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.) .. .. .	..	..
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.) .. .. .	..	..
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.) .. .. .	..	..
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)—		
(a) Insufficient .. .. .	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or Defective .. .. .	5	2
(c) Not Separate for Sexes .. .. .	..	..
Other Offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork) .. .. .	1	1
TOTAL .. .. .	7	4

MILK SUPPLY.

The following statement shows the number and result of examinations carried out :—

*Methylene Blue Reduction Test.*

Of the 56 samples produced in the district 33, or 58·9 per cent. were satisfactory.

Of the 34 samples produced outside the district, 23 or 67·65 were satisfactory.

Of the 90 samples obtained for testing 56, or 62·22 per cent., were satisfactory.

*Tubercle Bacilli.*

Fifteen samples were submitted for examination for the presence of B. Tubercle, 11 were satisfactory, 1 was found to be positive, and 3 inconclusive reports.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year two further maintenance treatments for destruction of rats in sewers were carried out, and in addition to routine treatment of refuse tips and Council-owned property, surface treatment as recommended by the Ministry of Food was continued.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS, COCKROACHES, &c.

D.D.T. powder and liquid were again used successfully in the eradication of bed-bugs. In co-operation with the Housing Manager we arranged for applicants for Council Houses, whose tenancy was deferred for verminous conditions, to be supplied with D.D.T. and spray and instructed in the best method of ridding their premises of vermin. A considerable number of complaints of the presence of cockroaches was received and difficulty in eradicating this pest was experienced.

## PUBLIC HEALTH PROPAGANDA.

The scheme of Public Health Propaganda was continued throughout the year.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE.

During the year the number of patients carried was 2,744, of which 81 were accidents.

On behalf of Northumberland County Council, 132 cases were carried, covering a mileage of 5,950 miles.

JOHN CORNEY,  
*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*

*August, 1948.*

