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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 1952



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Newburn Urban District Council
(County of Northumberland)

ANNUAL
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Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1952



Health Committee Members

Chairman :

Councillor RICHARD BROWELL, J.P.

Deputy Chairman :

Councillor THOMAS LIDDLE

Councillor JOSEPH WILLIAM BAIN

- „ Mrs. DOROTHY JANE HALL
- „ Mrs. ETHEL HIGGINS
- „ JOSEPH WILLIAM LEA
- „ JOHN CROSTHWAITE PATTERSON

Officers of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :

MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Acting Medical Officer of Health :

J. T. W. ROBSON, M.B., B.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN CORNEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN HATTON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk :

Mrs. L. PIGG

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended December 31st, 1952

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Work of your district for the year ended December 31st, 1952.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION.

There was a decrease of 70 in the Registrar General's estimate of the population from 21,890 in 1951 to 21,820 in 1952.

BIRTH RATE.

The birth rate per 1,000 population showed a decided decline from 17.2 in 1951 to 15.7 in 1952. The rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population was 15.3 in 1952.

There were 13 still births in the district in 1952, compared with 14 in 1951, giving a rate of 0.59 per 1,000 population in 1952 and 0.64 in 1951.

The rate for England and Wales was 0.35 in 1952.

The number of illegitimate births during the year was six, compared with 13 in 1951.

GENERAL DEATH RATE.

The death rate of 10.03 per 1,000 population was again below that of the country generally, namely, 11.3 for 1952.

In 1951 the death rate for the district was 10.05 per 1,000 population and 12.9 in 1950.

The number of deaths registered was 219 in 1952 and 220 in 1951.

NATURAL INCREASE OF THE POPULATION.

The number of births in excess of deaths in 1952 was 124, compared with 157 in 1951 and 108 in 1950.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The death rate of all infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 29.1 in 1952.

This figure showed a decrease from 34.5 in 1951 and 48.7 in 1950.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales was 27.6 in 1952 and 29.6 in 1951.

The significance of this dramatic fall in the infant mortality rate is realised on comparing the relatively recent figure of 10 years ago when the rate for this district in 1942 was 71.61 and that for the country generally was 49.0.

There were 10 deaths of infants under one year of age in 1952 and 13 in 1951.

The number of neo-natal deaths (i.e. deaths of infants under four weeks of age) was six in 1952 and six in 1951.

The number of deaths of infants under one year after the first month of life decreased noticeably to four in 1952 from seven in 1951 and six in 1950. Two of these deaths in 1952 had "congenital defects" as a contributory cause, one was due to "convulsions" and one to "broncho-pneumonia."

In 1951, four deaths were classified with "broncho-pneumonia" as a primary or secondary cause.

The increasing scope of the antibiotics and sulphonamide drugs has had a marked effect in curtailing respiratory and gastro-intestinal infection in young children.

During 1952, two deaths of children under one year of age were attributed to "broncho-pneumonia" and none to "gastro-enteritis." In 1951, two deaths were attributed primarily to "broncho-pneumonia" and two had "broncho-pneumonia" as a secondary cause; none were due to "gastro-enteritis."

In 1941, 14 deaths were attributed to "broncho-pneumonia" and one to "gastro-enteritis."

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

One death was registered as due to "pregnancy and child-birth" in 1952 as in 1951. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total (live and still births) was 0.72.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

In 1952, the number of deaths from "heart and circulatory diseases" was 87 compared with a total of 86 in 1951.

Deaths registered as due to "vascular diseases of the nervous system" increased slightly to 26 in 1952 from 22 in 1951.

The number of deaths from "malignant neoplasm" rose sharply from 22 in 1951 to 42 in 1952.

The number of deaths from "malignant neoplasm of the stomach, breast, and uterus" showed little change, but those from "malignant neoplasm of the lung and bronchus" increased from two (both males) in 1951 to 11 (10 males and one female) in 1952.

Deaths classified as due to "other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm" increased from a total of 10 in 1951 (five males and five females) to 21 in 1952 (nine males and 12 females).

There was almost twice the number of deaths from "malignant diseases" in 1952 compared with 1951, though in 1950, deaths from this cause were then high, being 45.

In 1952, there were no deaths from "leukæmia" and "diabetes" compared with three and two respectively in 1951.

There showed in 1952 a marked decline in the number of deaths from "respiratory diseases" (other than tuberculosis) to half the number registered in 1951, i.e., from 28 in 1951 to 14 in 1952.

The number of deaths from "pneumonia" decreased by four in 1952, while those from "bronchitis" decreased by nine, the most marked decrease being in female deaths from this cause from 12 in 1951 to five in 1952.

Deaths from "influenza" dropped to one in 1952, whereas in 1951, seven were registered as due to this cause.

"Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum" was the cause of five deaths in 1951 and two in 1952.

Deaths from "nephritis and nephrosis" declined to three in 1952 from six in 1951.

There was one fatal "motor vehicle accident" in both years, but in 1952, deaths classified as due to "all other accidents" increased to seven from two in 1951. The causes of the seven deaths from "accidents" in 1952 were two from falls, one accidentally electrocuted, one from a fall of stone, one struck by train, and two accidentally drowned.

In 1952, the number of deaths from "suicide" rose to six (four males and two females), while in 1951, there were two deaths (one male and one female) registered as from this cause.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The mortality rate from all forms of the disease showed a slight increase in 1952 to 0.37 per 1,000 population from 0.27 in 1951. The rate for England and Wales was 0.24 in 1952.

There were eight deaths registered in 1952, six from pulmonary tuberculosis and two from the non-pulmonary form of the disease.

In 1951, the total number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was six, five being due to pulmonary tuberculosis and one to the non-pulmonary form.

The total number of primary notifications of all forms of the disease decreased slightly to 41 in 1952 from 45 in 1951 and 41 in 1950.

The number of primary notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis increased by three in 1952, but there was a significant decrease in notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis from 10 in 1951 to three in 1952.

In the female age group (15-25 years) the number of primary notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis increased from five in 1951 to eight in 1952. This age group showed the most increase.

The decrease of non-pulmonary notifications showed in the older female age group, no case of this form of the disease in females being notified over the age of 15 years, whereas three female cases between the ages of 15 and 65 years had been notified in 1951.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES— PREVALENCE AND CONTROL.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 578 compared with 759 in 1951 and 378 in 1950.

The incidence of scarlet fever has shown a slight rise during the last few years, 19 cases were notified in 1950, 33 in 1951, and 52 in 1952. The disease was generally of a very mild type.

In 1952, 71 cases of whooping cough and 277 cases of measles were notified compared with 212 cases of whooping cough and 455 of measles in 1951. 1951 was a "peak year" for notifications of measles, the previous peak year being 1948.

For the fourth year in succession there was no case of diphtheria notified. The table in the statistical section of the report is of great interest, showing the gradually progressive decline in both the incidence and deaths from the disease concomitant with the increasing percentage of fully immunised children in the district.

No case of acute poliomyelitis was notified during the year compared with one case in 1951.

Notifications of pneumonia decreased to 29 in 1952 from 37 in 1951 and 59 in 1950. This was in keeping with the general trend of this disease during the last few years.

There were 137 cases of Sonne dysentery notified during the year compared with seven during the previous year and 23 in 1950.

The outbreak of Sonne dysentery commenced at the end of January. In five scattered households there was mild illness with diarrhoeal symptoms which, on investigation, proved to be due to the organism of Sonne dysentery. Five cases had clinical symptoms, and it was found that out of 16 family contacts, seven had positive stools, though symptomless at the time.

A child, who had been admitted to hospital from the district for a minor operation, had severe diarrhoeal symptoms, was removed to Walker Gate Hospital, and there subsequently made a good recovery. The home contacts of this case showed two more people with positive stools and seven with negative stools.

The situation at the end of January was of several groups of the infection in the district.

There were a few cases of the disease in the north at the time, and the infection probably started by contact and with very mild illness not considered sufficient to call in the family doctor.

Sixty cases were notified in February and 46 in March, involving 48 households in various parts of the district.

All family contacts were investigated, and convalescent and symptomless carriers kept under observation until negative stool specimens were obtained.

All positive cases received appropriate treatment from their family doctors, whose ready co-operation was a great help in checking the spread of the disease.

In several instances the spread of the infection could be traced between related households.

There was a decided decline by the end of March in the number of cases notified. A few cases occurred during April to October.

Two cases of food poisoning, one at Bell's Close and one at Blucher, were notified in July. In both cases the causal organism was identified as *Salmonella Typhi-murium*.

This department had been notified that a consignment of meat pies, manufactured in Glasgow and retailed in Newcastle, had been found to contain this organism. Some of the pies had been retailed in this district, and in these two cases pies of this particular brand had been consumed before the retailer could be warned.

An isolated case of food poisoning, causal organism identified as *Salmonella Typhi-murium*, occurred at Throckley in August and in September; four cases occurred in one family, the original case being a child of two years and other members of the family positive contacts. The organism isolated was again *Salmonella Typhi-murium*, and the cases were confined to this one family.

In October, another isolated case of food poisoning occurred at Westerhope; the organism identified was *Salmonella Stanley*.

During 1952, a total of eight cases of food poisoning were notified compared with six in 1951.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Immunisation is carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (children 0-5 years), at the schools (5-15 years), and by the General Practitioners of the district. At December 31st, 1952, 86 per cent. of the child population of the Urban District had been immunised at some time during their lives compared with 83 per cent. in 1951 and 85 per cent. in 1950.

The percentage of immunised children under five years rose slightly to 65 per cent. in 1952 from 61 per cent. in 1951, the percentage of immunised children of 5-15 years was 98 per cent. in 1952 as in 1951. The figures for 1952 showed a slight increase on those of 1951. During the year 1952, 395 children received a primary course of immunisation (320, 0-5 years and 75, 5-15 years) and 485 received a reinforcing injection.

The following are some extracts from a recent communication from the Ministry of Health :—

“ During the last 12 years over 10 million children have been immunised. The number of deaths has fallen from a yearly average of some 2,800 in 1930-40 to about 30.

“ These are matters for congratulation, but we must never forget that the *elimination of this disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation.*

“ At least 75 per cent. of babies should be immunised before the end of the first year of life. During the first half of 1952, this figure was only 31 per cent., and it is hoped that it may be greatly improved during 1953.

“ A sustained effort of persuasion is certainly needed directed to each generation of new mothers as the great majority of parents nowadays have never seen or heard of a case of diphtheria and are more afraid of the illnesses they know than of the danger of diphtheria.”

WHOOPIING COUGH (PROPHYLAXIS).

Forty-five children received a course of injections with whooping cough vaccine and 54 a course of injections with combined whooping cough and diphtheria prophylactic.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

In 1952, there were 78 primary vaccinations and 18 revaccinations compared with 81 primary vaccinations and 15 revaccinations in 1951. In view of the possible risk of infection from an occasional case of smallpox, usually imported, this number is still small.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

This service, now under the control of the Northumberland County Council, has a station at Newburn which covers not only the Urban District but the adjacent parts of the South Area and works in conjunction with the Wideopen, Prudhoe, and Ponteland Stations. There are six drivers and a driver-in-charge.

During the year 1952, ambulances of the Newburn Station made 3,552 journeys, carried 14,191 patients, of whom 1,050 were stretcher cases and 614 accident or emergency cases, and did a total of 96,357 miles.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

This service is controlled by the Northumberland County Council through the South Area Health Administration.

During the year 1952, 158 cases resident in the Urban District were served with Home Helps for varying periods. These cases included 53 of illness, 79 aged and infirm people, 15 confinements, four following operation and discharge from hospital, four blind persons, one paralysed person, and two cases of tuberculosis.

HOSPITALS.

There is one hospital in the district, the Lemington Hospital, which admits aged chronic patients. The hospital is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

Patients from this area are admitted to hospitals of the Newcastle and Hexham groups of hospitals, and cases of infectious disease are admitted to Walker Gate Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

HOME NURSING AND MIDWIFERY.

This service is administered by the Northumberland County Council. Five nurse/midwives are resident in the district, two at Throckley, two at Lemington, and one at Westerhope.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

This service is administered by the Northumberland County Council. There are four Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the district, one at The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, Mayfield Avenue, Throckley; one at The West Denton Association Hall, Middlegate, West Denton; one at The Methodist School Hall, Algernon Road, Lemington; and one at "Lindisfarne," Stamfordham Road, Westerhope. There are regular sessions for babies and children, expectant mothers, and dental treatment.

HOUSING.

At the end of 1952 there were 1,185 applicants for Council houses, 627 sub-tenants, 417 tenants, and 141 aged persons.

During the year 77 houses had been built by this Council and seven privately.

The total number of houses built by this Council since 1945 to December, 1952, was 818.

Six applicants with a case history of tuberculosis were re-housed in 1952, as against eight in 1951, and eight are awaiting allocation.

In spite of good progress made by the Council in building new houses during the past few years, the housing problem remains acute.

The conditions under which the occupants of condemned property are living gives cause for concern, and it is felt that special consideration might be given to the problem.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Burial or Cremation of the Dead—Section 50.—There were two burials under this section of the Act during the year.

Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of Care and Attention.—Investigations were made in several cases, but no formal action was necessary under this section of the Act during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938—SECTION 15 (By-laws).

By-laws under this section were formally adopted by the Council on July 7th, 1950, as previously reported. Particular attention is paid to their enforcement during regular visits made to all food premises by the Sanitary Officers.

No statutory action was necessary.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

The details under this section have been compiled by Mr. Corney, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council's Health Committee for the great interest they have shown in the work of my department, and to the Senior Sanitary Officer and the staffs of the Health and other departments for the assistance afforded me throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Statistical Summary and Social Conditions

Particulars of District.

Area (in acres)	4,649
Registrar General's estimated population	21,820
Number of inhabited houses, according to rate books	6,531
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£470
Rateable Value	£115,498

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Live Births (legitimate)	180	157	337
" " (illegitimate)	3	3	6
Still Births	5	8	13
Deaths	128	91	219
Birth rate per 1,000 population			15·7
Still Birth rate per 1,000 population			0·59
Death rate per 1,000 population			10·03

Death rate of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	29·1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29·6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.

Deaths from

Cancer (all ages)	42
Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—

Causes of Death in the Newburn Area, 1952.

(Registrar General's Return)

	Males	Females	Total
ALL CAUSES	128	91	219
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	..	6
2. Tuberculosis, other	2	..	2
3. Syphilitic disease .. .. .	..	..	..
4. Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	..
5. Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	..	..
6. Meningococcal infections .. .. .	..	..	..
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	..	..	..
8. Measles .. .. .	..	..	..
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	..	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	4	9
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	1	11
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	..	..	..
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	..	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	12	21
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia .. .. .	..	..	..
16. Diabetes .. .. .	..	..	..
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	9	26
18. Coronary disease, angina	21	15	36
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	4	8
20. Other heart disease	12	23	35
21. Other circulatory disease	2	6	8
22. Influenza .. .. .	..	1	1
23. Pneumonia	1	1	2
24. Bronchitis	6	5	11
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	..	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	..	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhœa	1	..	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	..	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	..	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	5	..	5
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	3	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	..	1	1
34. All other accidents	6	1	7
35. Suicide	4	2	6
36. Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	..	..	..

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE.

Year	BIRTHS		DEATHS	
	Newborn	England and Wales	Newborn	England and Wales
1928	19.41	—	11.78	—
1929	15.58	16.9	10.96	13.4
1930	16.91	16.9	10.57	11.4
1931	16.78	16.4	12.17	12.3
1932	15.48	15.9	11.44	12.0
1933	16.92	15.0	12.96	12.3
1934	15.03	15.4	12.85	11.8
1935	17.69	15.3	10.24	12.1
1936	16.20	15.4	11.27	12.1
1937	15.83	15.5	10.46	12.4
1938	17.19	15.7	11.56	11.6
1939	16.75	15.5	12.46	12.1
1940	15.27	15.1	12.24	14.3
1941	17.22	15.7	14.24	11.6
1942	20.07	16.3	12.27	11.6
1943	19.85	17.0	12.5	12.1
1944	21.29	18.1	10.46	11.6
1945	19.69	16.5	12.83	11.4
1946	21.14	19.6	11.43	11.5
1947	23.27	21.0	10.9	12.0
1948	19.62	18.3	11.2	10.8
1949	18.11	16.7	11.32	11.7
1950	17.9	15.8	12.9	11.6
1951	17.2	15.5	10.05	12.5
1952	15.7	15.3	10.03	11.3

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

Year	Newborn	England and Wales
1938	57.0	53.0
1939	77.84	50.0
1940	42.48	55.0
1941	90.6	59.0
1942	71.61	49.0
1943	49.84	49.0
1944	56.51	46.0
1945	48.52	46.0
1946	53.63	43.0
1947	43.48	41.0
1948	28.64	34.0
1949	30.8	32.0
1950	48.7	29.8
1951	34.5	29.6
1952	29.1	27.6

INFANT MORTALITY, 1952.—10 DEATHS.

Neo-natal Deaths :

Asphyxia	2
Pneumonia—congestive cardiac defect	1
Hydrops fœtalis—prematurity	1
Hæmolytic disease of new born—prematurity	1
Spina Bifida	1— 6
Convulsions	1
Broncho-pneumonia	1
Broncho-pneumonia—congenital heart disease	1
Congenital adrenal hypofunction	1— 4
TOTAL	<u>10</u>

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Appended is a summary of Bacteriological Reports received from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, on specimens submitted by local medical practitioners and by the Public Health Department.

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
Sputum for Tuberculosis	4	44
Fæces specimens for Salmonella organisms	38	32
Fæces specimens for Sonne Dysentery	286	663
Urine for coliform organisms	2	-
Vomit for organisms	-	1
Pleural fluid for organisms	-	2
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	-	10
Throat swabs for Hæmolytic streptococci	5	9
Mussels for organisms	-	5
Ham, meat, trifle, milk for organisms	-	5
Fæces for organisms (Tortoise)	-	1
Fæces for organisms (Dogs)	-	2

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1952.

Outbreaks due to identified agents :

Total outbreaks Nil	Total cases Nil
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Outbreaks due to :

(a) Chemical poisons	Nil
(b) Salmonella organisms	Nil
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	Nil
(d) Cl. botulinum	....	....	....	....	Nil
(e) Other bacteria	Nil

Outbreaks of undiscovered cause :

Total outbreaks Nil	Total cases Nil
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Single cases :

	AGENT IDENTIFIED	UNKNOWN CAUSE	TOTAL
Salmonella typhi-murium -	7
Salmonella stanley	....	.... -	1
Number of deaths	.... Nil		
Foods involved	.... Nil		

DIPHThERIA INCIDENCE AND DEATHS
AND DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION.

YEAR	Number of Cases of Diphtheria	Number of Deaths	Number of Children Immunised (given for years 1935-43). Later years expressed as percentage immunised of total child population
1935	28	....	32
1936	22	4	182
1937	20	....	209
1938	56	7	414
1939	5	....	422
1940	6	....	439
1941	43	3	1148
1942	49	2	2554
1943	104	3	3035
1944	118	6	65 per cent.
1945	21	2	80 per cent.
1946	11	....	82 per cent.
1947	9	....	83 per cent.
1948	2	....	83 per cent.
1949	....	....	84 per cent.
1950	....	....	84 per cent.
1951	....	....	83 per cent.
1952	....	....	86 per cent.

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES NOTIFIED				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1-5 years	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
5-15...	2	....	2	1	....	....	....	....
15-25...	4	8	....	....	1	....	....	....
25-35...	6	6	....	....	....	....	1	....
35-45...	3	1	....	....	2	....	....	....
45-55...	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
55-65...	2	....	....	....	2	....	1	....
65 years and over	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
Age Unknown	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
TOTAL...	22	16	2	1	6	....	2	....
	38		3		6		2	
	41				8			

TABLE OF DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

YEAR	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	TOTAL
1939.....	15	2	17
1940.....	11	5	16
1941.....	13	4	17
1942.....	12	2	14
1943.....	14	3	17
1944.....	12	1	13
1945.....	7	4	11
1946.....	12	4	16
1947.....	15	2	17
1948.....	12	2	14
1949.....	9	1	10
1950.....	9	1	10
1951.....	5	1	6
1952.....	6	2	8

TABLE OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS

YEAR	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		TOTAL
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1939.....	9	8	4	1	22
1940.....	13	10	6	5	34
1941.....	8	3	5	4	20
1942.....	12	10	5	1	28
1943.....	22	13	5	5	45
1944.....	8	11	4	2	25
1945.....	12	7	2	3	24
1946.....	16	12	7	2	37
1947.....	18	12	8	3	41
1948.....	15	13	1	4	33
1949.....	17	13	7	3	40
1950.....	21	16	1	3	41
1951.....	21	14	3	7	45
1952.....	22	16	2	1	41

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1952

QUARTER ENDED	Number of Cases on Register at Commencement of Quarter		Number of Cases Notified for the First Time		Number of Un-notified Cases Restored to Register		Number of Cases Removed from Register		Number of Cases Remaining on Register at end of Quarter	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
March 31st, 1952—										
Males	79	16	9	....	....	....	2	....	86	16
Females	66	17	4	....	....	....	....	....	70	17
June 30th, 1952—										
Males	86	16	4	1	....	....	6	5	84	12
Females	70	17	5	....	....	....	9	7	66	10
September 30th, 1952—										
Males	84	12	1	....	....	....	2	2	83	10
Females	66	10	5	1	....	....	8	2	63	9
December 31st, 1952—										
Males	83	10	7	1	1	....	2	2	89	9
Females	63	9	2	....	....	....	1	....	64	9

Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ended December 31st, 1952

To Dr. Madge Hopper.

DEAR MADAM,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report on matters relating to environmental hygiene within the district for the year ended December 31st, 1952.

HOUSING.

The work done by the department under this heading is much less spectacular than the building of new houses, but it is nevertheless of great importance. For want of adequate maintenance, otherwise sound property deteriorates to such an extent that it qualifies for inclusion in a clearance area, and if this trend is not halted the good progress made in new house building will be to some extent nullified—the total number of habitable dwellings requires to be increased, rather than that as each new house is built an older one is allowed to decay.

It will be seen by the table of "defects remedied" that a substantial amount of work has been done in arresting deterioration in houses, although it has proved more difficult than in former years to get landlords to carry out repairs because of increased costs. The proportion of Statutory Notices to Informal Notices served is higher than in previous years, but it has not been necessary to institute legal proceedings.

Three houses were closed as being unfit for human habitation on the tenants being re-housed, and one house previously closed was demolished.

In the hope that the time is approaching when clearance area procedure will be recommenced, a table is appended showing houses in the district which are suitable for such treatment.

WATER SUPPLY.

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

All the houses in the area, with the exception of nine, have internal water supply, the occupants of these nine houses drawing their supply from stand-pipes.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The use of two privies attached to houses which had been closed was discontinued, and at the end of the year there were 7,020 water closets, 23 pail closets, and 34 privies in use in the district.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

PERSONNEL.

There are four drivers, 12 bin-lifters, including three charge-hands, three tip-attendants, and one salvage baler, all under the supervision of the general foreman.

VEHICLES.

The fleet comprises the following vehicles :—

MAKE	CAPACITY	YEAR OF PURCHASE
Karrier Bantam	7 cubic yards	..... 1943
Karrier Bantam	7 cubic yards	..... 1944
Karrier Bantam	7 cubic yards	..... 1950
Karrier C.K.3	10 cubic yards	..... 1952

COLLECTION DISTRICTS.

These remain the same as last year, but the Throckley freighter has to deal with an increased number of bins due to the expansion of the Mount Pleasant housing scheme.

A weekly collection is maintained with twice weekly collections from certain colliery properties.

SCAVENGING OF EARTH CLOSETS.

At the beginning of March the scavenging of earth closets in the district was undertaken by our own personnel and vehicles instead of being done by hiring team labour.

The oldest vehicle with driver and one man is used for this purpose on two days each week.

DISPOSAL.

Three tips at Westerhope, Blucher, and Newburn continued in use, the condition of the one at Westerhope, which had been used for some years was greatly improved by levelling it by means of a bulldozer and scraper hired from the Northumberland County Council. Preparations were made to commence tipping on land owned by the Miners' Welfare Commission at Westerhope with the object of filling in a pond to which children had access, but tipping has not yet commenced owing to delay in completing the pumping station to deal with sewage from Westerhope schools and the adjacent properties, the pond still being used as an outlet for sewage.

SALVAGE.

Some difficulty was experienced during the year due to a restriction by the mills on the quantity of waste paper they would accept.

This necessitated storage of baled paper, space for which was severely limited, but the end of the year showed a satisfactory financial position.

KITCHEN WASTE.

No kitchen waste was collected during the year because it had previously proved a most uneconomic venture. After repeated pressure from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries it was decided to investigate the possibility of starting collection, using "individual containers" instead of communal bins, but at the end of the year the scheme had not commenced.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.

FOOD PREMISES.

Some 200 visits were made to premises where food is handled, and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory. In most shops a reasonably high standard of hygiene is achieved, but there are some whose occupiers require further education in this direction.

Compliance with the provisions of the "Clean Food" By-laws has been achieved without recourse to formal action.

ICE-CREAM REGULATIONS.

Applications from shop-keepers for registration of their premises for the sale of ice-cream continued to increase, and registration was granted for the sale of pre-wrapped ice-cream only in these cases.

The two ice-cream factories in the district were periodically inspected and premises and equipment found to be in a satisfactory condition.

MILK SAMPLES.

Of seven samples taken from milk retailers, six were found to comply with the Methylene Blue Reduction Test and one failed.

One sample taken from the only producer-retailer of milk within the district was found to be free from tubercle bacilli.

UN SOUND FOOD.

It was necessary to send warning letters in two instances to manufacturers, drawing attention to foreign matter in their products. In one case a bread bun was found to contain a piece of string and in the other a loaf of bread contained a piece of cinder.

Apart from the usual canned goods, &c., condemned as unfit in retailers' shops, it was necessary to condemn 2½ tons of ground rice in the warehouse of a manufacturing chemist. This rice was heavily infested with three species of weevil, and the facts of the case were reported to the infestation branch of the Ministry of Agriculture.

A list of foods condemned is shown on page 31.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As will be seen from the table, "Number and Nature of Inspections," on page 15, 1,100 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases. The great majority of these visits were to cases of dysentery, where investigations were carried out and specimens collected for examination at the Public Health Laboratory in the Newcastle General Hospital. This work took up a great deal of time, but it was felt to be worth it in preventing further spread of infection.

Disinfection of premises after cases of scarlet fever and removal of tuberculous patients was carried out, and in this connection 105 visits were necessary.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

As shown in the table on page 30 all the factories in the district have been inspected, and it was necessary in only three cases to require defects to be remedied.

RODENT CONTROL.

Two further sewer maintenance treatments were carried out, and as in previous years infestation was found to be negligible.

Surface treatments showed the district to be free from any major infestations. Details of the work are given on page 31.

NUISANCE AT WESTERHOPE.

On May 8th, a plague of blue-bottles descended upon Westerhope and literally covered the walls of a large proportion of the houses in the village together with most of the hedgerows. Upon investigation it was found that the source of the trouble was in fields belonging to a market gardener who had used large quantities of decaying fish as manure.

Several loads of this manure had been deposited on some newly-acquired fields and had not been ploughed in immediately, and as the weather was particularly warm, ideal conditions for the attraction of blue-bottles were presented.

After Informal and Statutory Notices had not been complied with, legal proceedings were instituted and a Nuisance Order was made against the defendant prohibiting the use of fish offal and slaughterhouse refuse as manure on his land.

In order to destroy the blue-bottles, spraying was carried out with D.D.T. liquid, using stirrup pumps at first and later a motor-driven compressed air paint sprayer suitably adapted. Powder blowers and D.D.T. powder were supplied to those householders whose premises were worst affected.

In all, some 80 gallons of liquid and 56 lbs. of powder were used over a period of eight days.

My thanks are again due to Mr. Hatton and Mrs. Pigg for their ready assistance, and to Mr. Muxworthy, general foreman, who has been most helpful.

The co-operation of the Clerk of the Council and the Surveyor has been much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN CORNEY,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

<i>Number and Nature of Inspections :</i>	VISITS
Housing	268
Overcrowding	2
Re-visits	856
Miscellaneous	52
Infectious Disease....	1,100
Food and Drugs Act	200
Shops Act	55
Factories Act	58
Dairies	13
Drainage	44
Insanitary premises	7
Keeping of animals	36
Nuisances	55
Disinfestation	63
Offensive accumulation	12
Rooms disinfected	105
	2,926
Refuse collection and disposal	46
Salvage	48
	3,020

Defects Remedied :

Brickwork re-pointed	22
Burst pipes repaired	14
Chimney stacks secured	10
Choked drains cleared	17
Clothes washing facilities provided	1
Dampness remedied	23
Doors overhauled	34
Dustbins provided	17
Eaves gutters and downspouts repaired	22
Firebars renewed	6
Handrail secured	3
Kitchen range repaired	8
Plasterwork repaired	54
Roofs overhauled	54
Rubbish removed	1
Scullery bench renewed	1
Set-pot repaired	2
Sinks renewed	2
Smoke nuisance remedied	2
Steps secured	2
Taps repaired	2
Waste pipes repaired	9
W.C. Apparatus overhauled	22
Wood flooring renewed	17
Window cords repaired	13
Yard surface repaired	7

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1952
(Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935)

	Number of Inspections during Year	Number of Defects or Contraventions of By-laws	Number of Informal Notices Served	Defects Remedied by Informal Action	Number of Statutory Notices Served	Defects Remedied after Statutory Notice	Legal Proceedings
HOUSING—							
Structural Defects	.....	272	116	160	28	53	.....
Defective Food Store	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dampness	484	27	27	10	8	7	.....
Overcrowding	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Insufficient	.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unsatisfactory	31	19	17	14	.....	.....	.....
WATER SUPPLY	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Insufficient	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Defective	168	64	57	41	13	12	.....
Insufficient	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
SANITARY	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
CONVENIENCES	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Defective	264	99	72	58	24	27	.....
Food Premises	200	8	2	8	.....	.....	.....
Shops Act	55	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dairies	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Slaughterhouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tents, Vans, &c.	9	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Offensive Trades	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Factories and Workplaces	58	3	2	3	.....	.....	.....
Keeping of Animals	36	6	4	2	1	1	.....
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	65	23	21	16	4	1	.....
Offensive Accumulations	12	1	1	.....	1	.....	1
Smoke Nuisances	4	2	2	1	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL	1,394	530	325	314	79	101	1

HOUSING.

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1952.

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	TOTAL
(a) By Local Authority—			
Permanent 	77	....	77
Temporary .... ....	....	....	....
(b) By other Bodies or Persons—			
Permanent .... ....	....	7	7
Temporary .... ....	....	....	....

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

- (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 268
- (2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 3
- (3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 156

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers 85

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :

(a) *Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners —	}	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —		

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	....	....	....	....	....	28
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—							
(a) By owners	....	....	....	....	....	24	} 24
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners						—	

(c) *Proceedings under Section 11 and 12 of Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	....	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	....	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949, Sec. 3)	....	....	....	3

(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	....	....	....	....	....	—

4. NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS AND NOT INCLUDED ABOVE	1
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HOUSING ACT, 1949 (Sec. 20).

(a) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been received	1
(b) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been approved	....	....	—

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	TOTAL
<i>Sanitary Conveniences :</i>			
Privies and privy ashpits abolished..	2	....	2
Privies and privy ashpits repaired..	....	....	....
Pail closets abolished .....	....	....	....
Water closets provided	84	....	84
Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A., 1936, S. 47..	....	....	....
Sanitary bins provided	84	....	84
Sanitary bins renewed	16	1	17
<i>Drainage :</i>			
New drains constructed	84	....	84
Drains repaired or reconstructed...	17	....	17
Additional gullies provided .....	....	....	....
Old gullies replaced .....	....	....	....
Scullery sinks provided	84	....	84
Scullery waste pipes repaired	8	1	9
Scullery waste pipes trapped .....	....	....	....
Yards repaired or reconstructed ...	6	1	7
			Number of Houses
<i>Water Supply :</i>			
Sources closed or discontinued .....	....	3	3
New service provided—			
(a) By Local Authority .....	....	77	77
(b) By Private Owner .....	....	7	7
Number of dwelling houses supplied by—			
(a) Internal Tap .....	....	....	6,522
(b) Stand-pipe .....	....	....	9

HOUSING.

LIST OF PROPERTIES IN THE DISTRICT WHICH REQUIRE TO BE DEALT WITH UNDER CLEARANCE AREA PROCEDURE.

"A" at an early date :

Location	Number of Houses to be Demolished	Remarks
THROCKLEY—		
Bank Top	44	Confirmed Clearance Area, 1938 — 38 houses still occupied
Elm Street	26	
Beech Street	19	
Sycamore Street	26	
Laurel Street	20	
Maple Street	26	
Ash Street East	5	One unoccupied
NORTH WALBOTTLE—		
Coronation and Chapel Rows	42	Nine unoccupied
WALBOTTLE—		
The Green, Low Square, School Bank, Queen's Row	23	Two unoccupied
BLUCHER—		
Cottages in Pit Yard	4	
NEWBURN—		
Fireman's Row	13	Confirmed Clearance Area, 1939—houses still occupied
Northumberland Terrace	11	
Albert Terrace	17	
Victoria Terrace	19	
BELL'S CLOSE—		
Pit Bank and Paper Mill Cottages	12	
	307	
	10	Individual unfit houses
 <i>"B" at a later date :</i>		
THROCKLEY—		
Ash Street	15	
Mount Pleasant	68	
Pit Cottages	26	
NORTH WALBOTTLE—		
North View	18	
BELL'S CLOSE		
Dene View	9	
LEMINGTON—		
Lloyd Street	21	
Stanley Street	41	
Union Street	43	
WESTERHOPE—		
Denton Grove	18	
Thomas Street	16	
James Street	8	
West Avenue	13	
	296	

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES 613

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. *INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to Health.*—

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. . .	5	11	..	..
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	40	47	2	..
				..
TOTAL	45	58	2	..

2. *Cases in which DEFECTS were found.*—

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

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110(L) (c)
Nets, other than Wire Nets	1
Textile Weaving	1
TOTAL	2

FOOD INSPECTION.

UNSOUND FOOD	SURRENDERED
Beef (Imported)	5 st.
Poultry	4 lb.
Canned Goods	459 tins
Bacon	53 lb.
Cheese	9½ lb.
Ham	196 lb.
Minced Steak	55 lb.
Ground Rice	2¼ tons
Chocolate Spread	36 cartons
Flour	3 lb.
Onions, Sauce, Beetroot	5 bottles

MILK REGULATIONS, 1949.

Number of Registered Dairies	8
Number of Registered Distributors	29

ICE-CREAM PREMISES.

Number on Register at commencement of year....	34
Number on Register at end of year	39

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number re-registered during year	4
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RODENT CONTROL.

Expenditure for year ended March 31st, 1953 :

	L. A. Property			Sewers			Surface		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages	35	0	0	14	14	8	32	11	4
Materials	3	17	5	1	16	6	3	17	5
	£38 17 5			£16 11 2			£36 8 9		
Grand Total				£ s. d.					
Less Income				91 17 4					
				21 11 4					
				£70 6 0					

50 per cent. reimbursed by Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN, 1952-53.

Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals
GROSS EXPENDITURE—	£	£	£
Labour	5,255	1,230	6,485
Transport	2,832	617	3,449
Plant, Equipment, Land and Buildings	49	284	333
Other Items	—	—	—
Total Gross Expenditure	8,136	2,131	10,267
GROSS INCOME (including £66 received from other Local Authorities)	—	1,142	1,142
NET COST	8,136	989	9,125
Capital Expenditure met from Revenue	—	—	—
UNIT COSTS—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Gross Cost per Ton, Labour only	11 11	2 10	14 9
Gross Cost per Ton, Transport only	6 5	1 4	7 9
Net Cost (all Expenditure) per Ton	18 6	2 3	20 9
	£	£	£
Net Cost per 1,000 Population	372	45	417
Net Cost per 1,000 Premises	1,191	145	1,336

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

Area (statute acres—land and inland water)	4,648 acres
Population at June 30th, 1951	21,890 persons
Total Refuse Collected (estimated)	8,800 tons
Weight (cwt.) per 1,000 Population per Day	22 cwt.
Number of Premises from which Refuse is Collected	6,829 premises
Average Haul (miles) by Collection Vehicle to Disposal Plant	3 miles
Frequency of Collection	Weekly
Kerbside Collection (if practised)	Nil
Total Refuse Disposed of	8,800 tons

Methods of Disposal :

(a) Crude Tipping	—
(b) Controlled Tipping	100 per cent.
(c) Direct Incineration	—
(d) Separation and Incineration	—
(e) Miscellaneous—Pulverisation, Barging to Sea, Composting	—
(f) Other Methods	—

Salvage and Trade Refuse :

Salvage—	Analysis of Income and Tonnage	
	Income	Tonnage Collected
(a) Kitchen Waste	£	Tons
(b) Scrap Metal	60	13
(c) Waste Paper	1,006	97
(d) Other Salvage	10	2
Trade Refuse		Nil

Remarks : Twice weekly collection is practised from 1,045 colliery houses.

