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Newburn Urban District Council
(County of Northumberland)



Annual



REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior


Public Health Inspector

For the Year 1963

Pelaw-on-Tyne

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(County of Northumberland)

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Medical Officer of Health
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For the Year 1963

Health Committee Members

1963-64

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Councillor Mrs. EVELYN WATSON

Deputy Chairman:

Councillor JOSEPH KEARMAN

Councillor CHARLES ANDREW WOODS, J.P.

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- » PEGGY WADDINGTON
- » JOSEPH WILLIAM BAIN
- » WILLIAM HENRY FERENS SHACKLETON
- » GEORGE HARRISON

Officers of the Public Health Department

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NEWBURN,
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First Additional Public Health Inspector:

GEORGE GRAHAM, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Second Additional Public Health Inspector:

JAMES S. GRAHAM, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

TREVOR HARRIS

Clerk:

Mrs. P. E. REDHEAD

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1963.

The population of the Urban District rose appreciably by 1,100 in the year. This population increase has been a feature of the district for the past eight years, the total increase in that time being 7,410. The rehousing of some overspill population at West Denton by the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne accounted for the initial rise in the population. In more recent years it has been due to residential development which continued this year at Chapel House Farm Estate and the Leazes Estate, Throckley.

The vital statistics for the year showed some slight variations. There was a rise in the birth rate, which was a little higher this year than the national rate which has been steadily rising since 1955, and a small but welcome decrease in the number of illegitimate births and still births. The death rate for the urban district has shown little change during the last three years.

The infant mortality rate, however, increased due to eight deaths of infants in the first few weeks of life from serious congenital abnormalities and prematurity, in addition to three infant deaths from infective causes, unusual in this age of antibiotics. In all there were 14 deaths of infants under one year of age. In 1962 there were eight such deaths with congenital abnormalities and prematurity as the primary factors, but none from infective causes.

With regard to the individual causes of death, those from heart and circulatory diseases rose by 20. This was especially evident in the number of deaths from coronary disease and angina, which increased by 12. Deaths from vascular lesions of the nervous system also slightly increased. There was a small though welcome decrease in the total number of deaths from malignant neoplasm, evident in those from cancer of the stomach and of the breast. Deaths from cancer of the lung remained at the same high level as last year. Investigation showed a preponderance of moderate to heavy cigarette smokers and also in six cases the presence of previous lung disease.

Deaths from respiratory diseases decreased slightly, those from bronchitis remaining at the same level as last year. Fatal motor accidents dropped to one from four in 1962, but deaths from other accidents rose to seven from five. A notable increase took place in deaths from accidental coal gas poisoning to three from one in 1962.

The mortality from tuberculosis showed no change but notifications increased to 18 from 11 in 1962, this increase being mainly in middle-aged males. The visits of the Mass Radiography Unit to the district are helpful in case finding and it is hoped that they will be continued, especially in industry.

As was expected, notifications of infectious disease rose very considerably, the rise being entirely due to the biennial outbreak of measles in the spring.

The Medical Research Council are undertaking extensive trials in the search for a suitable vaccine against measles and until this protection is achieved on a large scale these outbreaks will recur as susceptible children become at risk.

The decrease in the incidence of whooping cough and of dysentery is worthy of note. Whooping cough notifications dropped to a half of those of the previous year, illustrating the effect of a steady programme of vaccination; notifications of sonne dysentery were two, compared with 25 in 1962. For many years particular care has been taken in the investigation and surveillance of families with cases of dysentery until a full clearance is achieved.

Notifications of primary pneumonia rose to 23 from 14 in 1962, the rise being noticeable in the older age groups. The winter was exceptionally severe and influenza and upper respiratory infections were prevalent in the early spring.

Fortunately no formal action was necessary under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act. The domiciliary services with Part III accommodation, if necessary, met all situations this year.

The welfare of the aged received special attention through the year, the Council and various interested organisations giving impetus as well as a steady interest in the work.

The Paper Sack System of refuse collection first commenced in November, 1961, and its use at Chapel House Farm Estate has proved a great success and is much appreciated by the householders concerned. The Council have now decided in principle to extend the system to all new estates.

The varied activities of the Health Department continued with vigour and smoothness. In presenting this report, I wish to express my appreciation to the Council and the Health Committee for their interest and support in the work of the Department and to the other officials of the Council for their co-operation. I am grateful to Mr. Corney, Senior Public Health Inspector, for his excellent work during the year, and to the staff of the Health Department for their capable services.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Newburn Urban District

The Urban District, which consists of five wards, Denton, Lemington, Newburn, Throckley, and Westerhope, is situated on the north bank of the River Tyne, west of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne. The wards of the district are merging from separate townships as housing development rapidly increases. Lemington and Newburn are the industrial parts of the district and are situated near the river. Industries include glass making, brick making, and the manufacture of steel springs, etc. Towards the end of the year the cordage works at Newburn had almost finished operating. The Stella North Power Station is near the river, and on the Newburn Industrial Trading Estate several engineering factories have been established.

The colliery at North Walbottle is the only one left in operation in the district.

Residential development continued and by the end of the year there were 712 houses in occupation at the Chapel House Farm Estate, West Denton, and 452 at the Leazes Estate, Throckley, the latter including flats and maisonettes.

I.—VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population was 30,100, an increase of 1,100 in the year. This increase was chiefly due to the influx of new population into private houses. The population of the urban district has shown a steady annual increase which has amounted to a total of 7,410 in the last eight years. The initial rise in population was due to the rehousing of some of their overspill population by the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Births

The registrations of births during the year numbered 587 (288 males and 299 females), an increase of 43 on the previous year's figures. There was a slight increase in the number of male births. The birth rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) was 18.9 per 1,000 population, as against 18.2 for England and Wales. The rates for the previous year were 17.1 for this district and 18.0 for England and Wales. This rise in the birth rate, which first commenced three to four years ago, has continued steadily. The number of illegitimate births, which have been increasing of recent years, dropped a little by two. A welcome decrease took place in still births from 12 in 1962 and 11 in 1961, to nine this year. The still birth rate for the urban district was 15.1 and that for the country was 17.3 per 1,000 total live and still births.

Deaths

A total of 333 deaths (163 males and 170 females) was registered in the course of the year, 21 of these deaths being in the Lemington Hospital. The comparable figures for the previous year were 305 deaths (157 males and 148 females), with 25 deaths occurring in the hospital. This leaves a total of 312 deaths of residents this year, compared with 280 in 1962 and 250 in 1961. The death rate (corrected) for the urban district was 13.94 and that for the country was 12.2 per 1,000 population. The rates for the previous years were 13.8 for this district and 11.9 for the country.

Natural Increase in Population

The number of births in excess of deaths (excluding those in the Lemington Hospital) was 275. The figures for the previous years were 264 in 1962 and 260 in 1961. This increase has been evident since the influx of a younger adult population.

Infant Mortality

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age showed a most unwelcome increase to a total of 14 in the year, as compared with eight deaths of infants in 1962 and ten in 1961. The infant mortality rate for the district was 23.8 per 1,000 live births and that for England and Wales was 20.9. The previous year's figures were 14.7 for the urban district and 21.4 for the national rate.

The rise in the infant mortality rate, which is the largest recorded since 1960, was mainly due to the increased number of fatal congenital abnormalities, of which there were six, three being due to congenital heart disease and two to hydrocephalus. The number of deaths from infective causes also showed a rise from none last year to three in 1963. Two were due to broncho pneumonia and acute bronchitis and one to gastro enteritis. There were eight neo-natal deaths, i.e., deaths of infants under four weeks of age; indeed these all occurred in the first week of life. The increase showed especially in the number of deaths of infants over four weeks but under one year, which increased to six from two last year. Of course the numbers involved are relatively small so that any fluctuation is very evident. This certainly shows the need for constant and increased care in ante- and peri-natal work and for further research.

Maternal Mortality

No death attributable to pregnancy or childbirth was registered for the fifth year in succession. The maternal mortality rate for the country was 0.28 per total live and still births.

Individual Causes of Death

The deaths in the Lemington Hospital are excluded from these figures.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system accounted for a total of 50 deaths (26 males and 24 females), as against 42 from this cause in 1962.

In the grouping of heart and circulatory diseases generally there was a total of 127 deaths, compared with 107 in 1962. Deaths from coronary disease and angina rose from 54 to 66 this year, and those from other heart and circulatory diseases rose from 33 to 41 in 1963. This increase conforms with the general trend throughout the country of a greater number of deaths from coronary and other heart disease, the latter to be expected in view of the increased life-span of the population.

Deaths from malignant disease showed a welcome decrease from 64 in 1962 to 58 in 1963. The decrease was mainly in those from malignant neoplasm of the stomach and of the breast, which dropped by four and three, respectively. Deaths from cancer of the lung remained at the same number as last year, namely, 17. Investigations into ten cases showed that eight were men who had been engaged in occupations where dust might be a contributory factor. Two had been gassed in the first world war and six had previous history of pleurisy. All were cigarette smokers; two could be classed as heavy smokers and the other men as moderate ones of up to 20 per day. Fourteen were between 50 and 67 years of age, one of 44 years, and two of over 75 years.

Deaths from abdominal cancer remained at the same number of 27. Deaths from respiratory diseases generally again showed a very slight decrease to 20 from 21 in 1962 and 23 in 1961. There were nine hospital deaths in addition.

Deaths from bronchitis numbered 11, as in 1962. In 1961 there were 14 deaths from bronchitis. Three deaths were registered as due to influenza; there had been none from this cause during the previous year. Deaths from congenital malformations rose to six from four the previous year.

A very welcome drop took place in the number of fatal motor accidents from four in 1962 to one in 1963. A girl of 19 years, a passenger in a car, died of injuries to the chest. Unfortunately, the number of deaths from other accidents rose to seven (six males and one female) from five in 1962. Two were industrial accidents (one a fall from a roof and the other a colliery accident). Three were due to the inhalation of coal gas poison, the ages being 50, 72, and 76 years. The one female death at the age of 28 years was due to barbiturate poisoning. There was one death, a man of 83 years, due to a fractured femur.

There were three deaths from suicide, compared with four the previous year.

Three deaths from leukaemia were registered, two being of young children of two years old and one a male of 39 years. No death from this cause was notified in 1962 but there were three in 1961.

II.—TUBERCULOSIS

One death due to pulmonary tuberculosis (a man of 25 years) was registered, compared with two in 1962 and three in 1961. The death rate from tuberculosis for the urban district was 0.033 and that for the country was 0.063 per 1,000 population.

The incidence of tuberculosis rose considerably to a total of 18 notifications of the pulmonary disease (12 males and 6 females) from 11 (7 males and 4 females) in 1962, and 12 in 1961. The increase was mainly in the number of male notifications in the 45 to 64 years age group which rose by four, and in the 25 to 44 years age group which rose by two. There was one notification of a young female (15 to 24 years) and one of a young child (female) of under five years of age of tuberculosis of the meninges and chest. In both years there was one notification of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The decrease in the death rate conformed to the general trend of recent years, but the increase in notifications was unusual and it is hoped will not continue.

It was pointed out last year that no less than 64 patients were removed from the tuberculosis register as recovered. This year 26 cases were removed from the register, 20 having recovered.

The number of inward transfers of tuberculosis was eight in the course of the year, compared with five during the previous year. In the last ten years a total of 154 cases of tuberculosis has been inwardly transferred to this district, mainly from the City of Newcastle. Since 1953 there have been 154 inward transfers of tuberculosis (145 pulmonary and nine non-pulmonary).

The usual close co-operation with the Chest Clinic was continued during the year and particular attention paid to the after-care of tuberculous persons and their housing needs. No case of tuberculosis was rehoused during the year, although 90 such families have been rehoused during the past 12 years.

Mass Radiography

The mobile unit of the mass X-ray visited the district in the autumn and the following sessions were held:—

	Number X-rayed		Referred to C.C.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Throckley (26th/27th September)	63	108	—	2
Newburn (30th September to 1st October)	118	150	4	—
Lemington (2nd/3rd October)....	94	200	3	2
Westerhope (17th/18th October)	137	224	3	5
TOTAL	411	682	10	9

Last time the mobile unit was in this district in May and August, 1962, the total number of persons X-rayed was 1,016 (651 males and 365 females) and 12 were referred to the chest clinic.

These regular visits of the unit are very valuable as primary cases of the disease and the presence of old lesions are discovered. The above figures have been kindly supplied by the Secretary of the Mass Radiography Unit.

III.—GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

In 1963, the total number of notifications of infectious diseases was 520; there were 74 notifications in 1962 and 619 in 1961. The trend of a biennial rise in incidence of measles was once more faithfully followed. This year there were 476 notifications of measles, compared with 589 in 1961.

Measles

From January to April, 376 cases of measles were notified, February being the peak month when there were 123 cases. The disease spread from West Denton and Westerhope across the urban district to Lemington and Throckley. The age group of 5 to 9 years showed the highest incidence in both sexes. After April the number of cases rapidly decreased to a few sporadic ones.

Scarlet Fever

The number of notifications of scarlet fever rose to a total of six from none in 1962 and two in 1961; the cases, however, were of the usual extremely mild type.

Whooping Cough

There was a welcome decrease in the number of notifications of whooping cough from 20 the previous year to ten. There is little doubt that vaccination against whooping cough is having a marked effect, and care in ensuring completion of primary vaccinations and in keeping up the level of immunity by booster doses is of great importance in the early years. The graph showing the number of notified cases of whooping cough in the last ten years concomitant with the number of vaccinations each year shows this well.

Dysentery

Only two cases of dysentery were notified, compared with 25 in 1962 and 14 in 1961. This was a very decided improvement. Of the two cases in 1963, one was of sonne and one of flexner dysentery. The causative organism of the latter was an unusual flexner type; on investigation it was found that four other members of the family on holiday from Tripoli in North Africa were positive excretors. Two children of the family on holiday had previously had diarrhoea and had probably imported the infection. The patient and the four positive excretors received treatment from the family doctor until clear.

Primary and Virus Pneumonia and Influenza

The number of notifications of primary pneumonia again increased to 23 from 14 in 1962. The cases were mainly during the very severe weather in the winter.

On March 6th a report for the previous week was received from the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance stating that claims for sickness benefit had risen by 200 per cent., the claims being mostly for upper respiratory infection. A similar increase in the claims for sickness benefit had been reported during the previous year in the weeks ended 9th and 16th January, 1962. Previous to this, no such increase in the number of claims had occurred in the district since February, 1959. As in former years, the general practitioners of the district kept watch for the prevalence of influenza as distinct from the common cold and its complications.

Salmonellosis

A case of salmonellosis occurred in a boy of eight months; he was found to be suffering from gastro-enteritis due to *S. typhi murium*. The child's parents and grandmother were found to be positive excretors. Treatment was given by the family doctor to the baby and the three positive excretors. The latter had cleared up by the end of the month, but the baby took longer to clear.

Another case of salmonellosis occurred in a child of one year old and was found to be due to *S. enteriditus*. Stool specimens from the parents and grandmother were found to be positive and treatment was given by the family doctor. The stools of the positive excretors were clear in a few weeks, but those of the baby took three months.

Food Poisoning

An outbreak of food poisoning occurred on 7th November at a Technical College in a neighbouring district. On investigation by the Health Department staff of the local authority concerned, it was found that 11 of the affected pupils were residing in this district.

Investigation was made into these 11 cases, stool specimens taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these, three were found to be positive, *C. welchii* being isolated. The family doctors were notified and treatment instituted. Stool specimens taken after treatment were found to be negative. The infection was of a mild type and no further case occurred.

No case of poliomyelitis has been notified in the district during the last four years.

IV.—HOUSING

During the year 151 families were rehoused by the Council, 11 being tenants, 49 sub-tenants, 84 from slum clearance property and seven aged persons. These figures have been kindly supplied by the Housing Officer.

V.—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47

Visits were paid by officers of the department under this section, but no formal action proved necessary, the services of a home help, the aid of voluntary organisations, or further after-care being of sufficient help. Investigation was made of the circumstances in which a woman of 86 years was living at Bells Close. She had had the services of a home help for some time but her habit of wandering outside and her deteriorating condition caused concern. She was admitted to the Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington.

Section 50

There was no burial under this section during the year.

VI.—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955, AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Regular inspections of all food premises were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors. During the last two years the number of cases in which the Council have taken court action under the Act has very considerably increased. This year there were four such cases and in 1962 there were six. Details of the 1963 cases are contained in the report of the Public Health Inspector.

Eight samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, all being placed in Provisional Grade 1.

Talks on health subjects, at times illustrated by films and film strips, were again given to various organisations and to some of the schools during the year, and posters on Smoking and Health and Food Hygiene displayed on notice boards and at salient points, and leaflets distributed.

VII.—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The deposit gauge readings obtained by the Central Electricity Generation Board at the sites of the Newburn Sub-station, Lemington Cemetery, and Hill Head Farm showed a variation from last year. There was a decrease of 1.7 tons per square mile at the Newburn Sub-station but increases of 2.3 and 1.4, respectively, at the other two stations. The readings closely approximate those of 1961, as shown by the graph. It is not possible as yet to relate this to the operation of the Smoke Control Areas No. 2, Chapel House Estate, which commenced in 1961, and Throckley No. 1, which started in 1962.

The dark smoke and sulphur dioxide readings which are appended were taken at the Council Offices, Newburn, and at Westerhope. They show a decrease in the daily smoke readings at both places, probably due to less domestic smoke, and a slight rise in the sulphur dioxide reading at the Council Offices. It must be borne in mind that the unit of microgrammes used is very small. It is possible that the increase in sulphur dioxide pollution at the Council Offices is due to wind direction carrying the pollution from the industrial areas of the river.

Atmospheric Pollution—Average Monthly Deposits
Tons per square mile

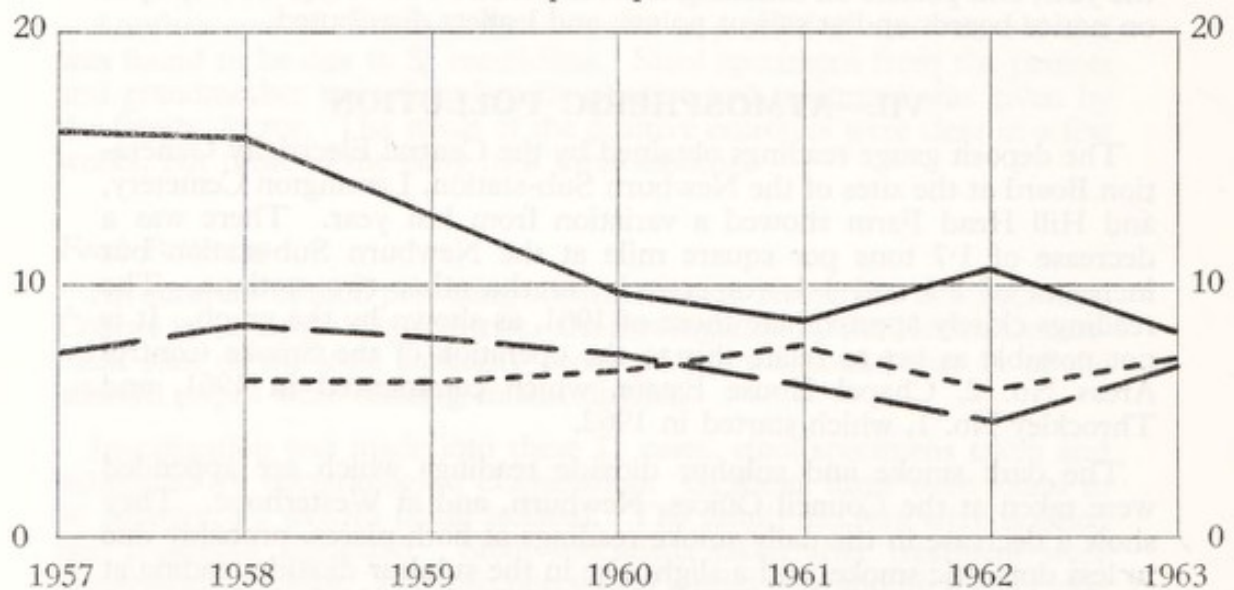
Year	Newburn Sub-Station	Lemington Cemetery	Hill Head Farm
1956	17.2	6.9	—
1957	16.0	7.5	—
1958	15.4	8.7	6.6
1959	12.9	8.1	6.3
1960	9.8	7.3	6.7
1961	8.7	6.3	7.2
1962	10.2	4.6	5.6
1963	8.6	6.9	7.0

Atmospheric Pollution
Daily Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide Reading

	Smoke Microgrammes per cubic metre	S.O.2 Microgrammes per cubic metre
1960		
Council Offices	216	62
Westerhope	185	69
1961		
Council Offices	199	67
Westerhope	188	92
1962		
Council Offices	163	72
Westerhope	171	84
1963		
Council Offices	136	97
Westerhope	128	90

DEPOSIT GAUGE READINGS

Tons per square mile



- - - - HILL HEAD FARM.
- NEWBURN SUB-STATION.
- . - . LEMINGTON CEMETERY.

VIII.—WELFARE OF THE AGED

The Newburn Urban District Central Committee for the Welfare of the Aged carried out its former excellent work during this year.

The chiropody service, which has operated since 1956-57, held sessions at the clinics, at which 212 patients received 520 treatments. In addition, 18 patients had domiciliary treatment.

In the early part of the year this service was temporarily interrupted due to the lack of a chiropodist. This was eventually rectified and the county service took over domiciliary visits.

Friendly visiting continued as formerly and the two luncheon clubs at Lemington and Throckley were a success. It is hoped to start a club at West Denton in the near future.

The eight over-60s clubs in the district, whose function is more recreational, also continued their activities.

Mrs. Bruce, Honorary Secretary of the Central Committee for the Welfare of the Aged, and Miss Stell, Welfare Officer of the Council, have kindly supplied this information.

IX.—MORTUARY

In the course of the year 14 bodies were received in the mortuary, seven from this district and seven from neighbouring authorities; 12 post-mortems were carried out.

X.—NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

No formal action was necessary under this Act.

XI.—SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are no sewage works in the district. Five sewer outlets deliver direct into the river at points from Newburn Bridge to Bells Close, Scotswood. The Council is a contributing authority to a scheme for investigating the pollution of the River Tyne by untreated sewage.

XII.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

The details under this section have been compiled by Mr J. Corney, Senior Public Health Inspector, in his report.

Health Services in the District

1. REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

(a) Hospitals

The Lemington Hospital is an annexe of the General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, Geriatric Unit, where elderly female patients suffering from chronic disease are admitted.

Patients from the urban district are treated at the Newcastle and Hexham Group of Hospitals, and cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Walker Gate Hospital, Newcastle, as necessary.

(b) Tuberculosis Service

The Chest Clinic, Elswick Road, Newcastle, serves this district, and patients are admitted to Wooley Sanatorium and Walker Gate Hospital as required. The Chest Clinic investigates contacts of tuberculosis, and B.C.G. vaccination is given to children at risk at the clinic or at the schools with the parents' consent. The Health Visitors do the home visiting of tuberculous patients when this is considered advisable. The close co-operation of all these services with the Public Health Department continued as formerly, especially as regards rehousing. The Newburn and Prudhoe After-Care Sub-Committee of the area helped towards the comfort at home of these patients.

(c) Local Authority Services

The following Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 and the care of buildings under Section 3 are administered by the South Area Health Sub-Committee of the Northumberland County Council.

2. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

There are seven nurse-midwives resident in various parts of the district as follows:—

District	Designation	Name and Address	Telephone No.
Lemington and West Denton	District Nurse	Miss E. Collinson, 26, Northcote Avenue, West Denton.	Lemington 674742
"	Nurse Midwife	Mrs. M. Teasdale, 15, Orchard Terrace, Lemington.	Lemington 674764
"	General Nurse	Mrs. M. A. Dixon, 20, Hill Head Road, West Denton	Lemington 675568
Newburn	Nurse Midwife	Miss A. M. Fowler, 21, The Causeway, Throckley.	Lemington 674697
Throckley and Heddon	Nurse Midwife	Miss C. Turnbull, 31, Aquilla Drive, Heddon-on-the-Wall.	Wylam 2213
Westerhope	District Midwife	Miss M. K. Durham, 2, Beaumont Terrace, Westerhope.	Newcastle 869283
"	General Nurse	Mrs. L. Jackson, Palmerston Cottage, Northumberland Gardens, North Walbottle.	Lemington 674763

3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE

The following clinics serve the district:—

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, Mayfield Avenue, Throckley.

The Methodist School Hall, Algernon Road, Lemington.

“Lindisfarne,” Stamfordham Road, Westerhope.

John Knox Presbyterian Church Hall, Middle Gate, West Denton.

Regular sessions are held for the care of babies, children and expectant mothers, and special sessions for orthopaedic treatment, dental treatment, immunisation sessions, speech therapy, and relaxation classes. Chiropody sessions for the elderly and for expectant mothers are also held at regular intervals.

4. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, and Tetanus

The triple antigen of diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus is now in almost universal use in preference to the giving of separate antigens and has greatly simplified the programme of immunisation. It is now a matter of routine for babies and young children to be immunised at the clinics or by their own doctors by means of the triple antigen. The routine of giving injections is made as easy as possible and effort is made to eliminate incomplete courses and lost booster doses. The use of sterile disposable syringes and needles is a great help in this work. 424 children received primary courses of the triple antigen, compared with 392 in 1962. In addition, 620 reinforcing doses were given, including 422 of the triple antigen, 93 of diphtheria/tetanus, 75 of diphtheria, and 30 of diphtheria/whooping cough. It was realised that some of the older children of between six and ten years had not had the opportunity of receiving protection against tetanus in their earlier years, so an effort is being made to offer this vaccination to children of these ages at school, usually in combination with their diphtheria booster, but in some cases as a primary course.

Smallpox

Fifty-eight primary vaccinations were given during the year, a more usual figure following the almost panic increase in 1962 when 548 primary vaccinations were given following the presence of smallpox in the country. There were also 36 re-vaccinations in 1963, 780 in 1962.

Poliomyelitis

Since oral vaccine was made available to the public on 5th March, 1962, 4,140 children and persons in the south area have had a complete course. The south area consists of the Urban Districts of Gosforth, Prudhoe, and Newburn, and the Rural District of Castle Ward. A total of 24,187 children born between 1943 and 1963, and persons in other groups numbering 10,414, have received two injections of Salk vaccine, 28,350 a third, and 7,972 a fourth injection.

5. AMBULANCE SERVICE

In July, 1963, the old system of radio control throughout the County was replaced by a new one based at the central control at Wideopen. The additional staff employed included two new drivers at the Throckley depot. An extension of the vehicle maintenance scheme at Wideopen to cover the whole of the ambulance fleet was also instituted.

The depot at Westway, Throckley, covers the entire urban district, the surrounding parts of Castle Ward, and also partially covers Prudhoe and the villages on the north side of the River Tyne. In 1963, ambulances of this station made 4,145 (4,311) journeys, carried 15,770 (16,295) patients, of which 992 (977) were accident and emergency cases, 1,945 (2,106) stretcher cases, and did a total mileage of 118,557 (118,238) miles. The figures in brackets are those for the previous year. There was a slight decrease this year in the number of journeys, patients carried, and stretcher cases, but an increase in the number of accident and emergency cases.

6. HOME HELP SERVICE

A total of 261 (246) patients received the services of a home help during the year for varying periods. The cases were 15 (14) confinements, 10 (17) acute illness, 6 (6) blind persons, 3 (3) cases of tuberculosis, and 227 (216) aged and infirm persons. The slight increase this year in the service is in the number of aged and infirm people.

7. CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The Newburn and Prudhoe After-Care Sub-Committee held meetings at two-monthly intervals as in former years. Assistance, such as provision of milk, eggs, comforts not supplied from official sources, and travelling expenses of relatives visiting hospitals, etc., was given to patients suffering from tuberculosis and other lung and cardiac diseases.

8. NURSING CARE COMMITTEE

The Throckley and Heddon, Westerhope and Lemington Nursing Care Committees continued their voluntary work in the loan of nursing requisites to patients being nursed at home. Although requests are not frequent, a useful function is performed by these committees in assisting with domiciliary care.

The district nurses hold stocks of the smaller articles of equipment for immediate use; the larger and more specialised equipment is supplied by the South Area Health Sub-Committee.

9. CHIROPODY

The Chiropody Service was first started in July, 1960, throughout the administrative county for the handicapped and expectant mothers and was also made available to the elderly in districts where facilities are not provided by the Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committee. In the Urban District the chiropody service of this voluntary organisation has continued. Arrangements can be made for domiciliary visiting when necessary and appointments are made through the Health Visitors.

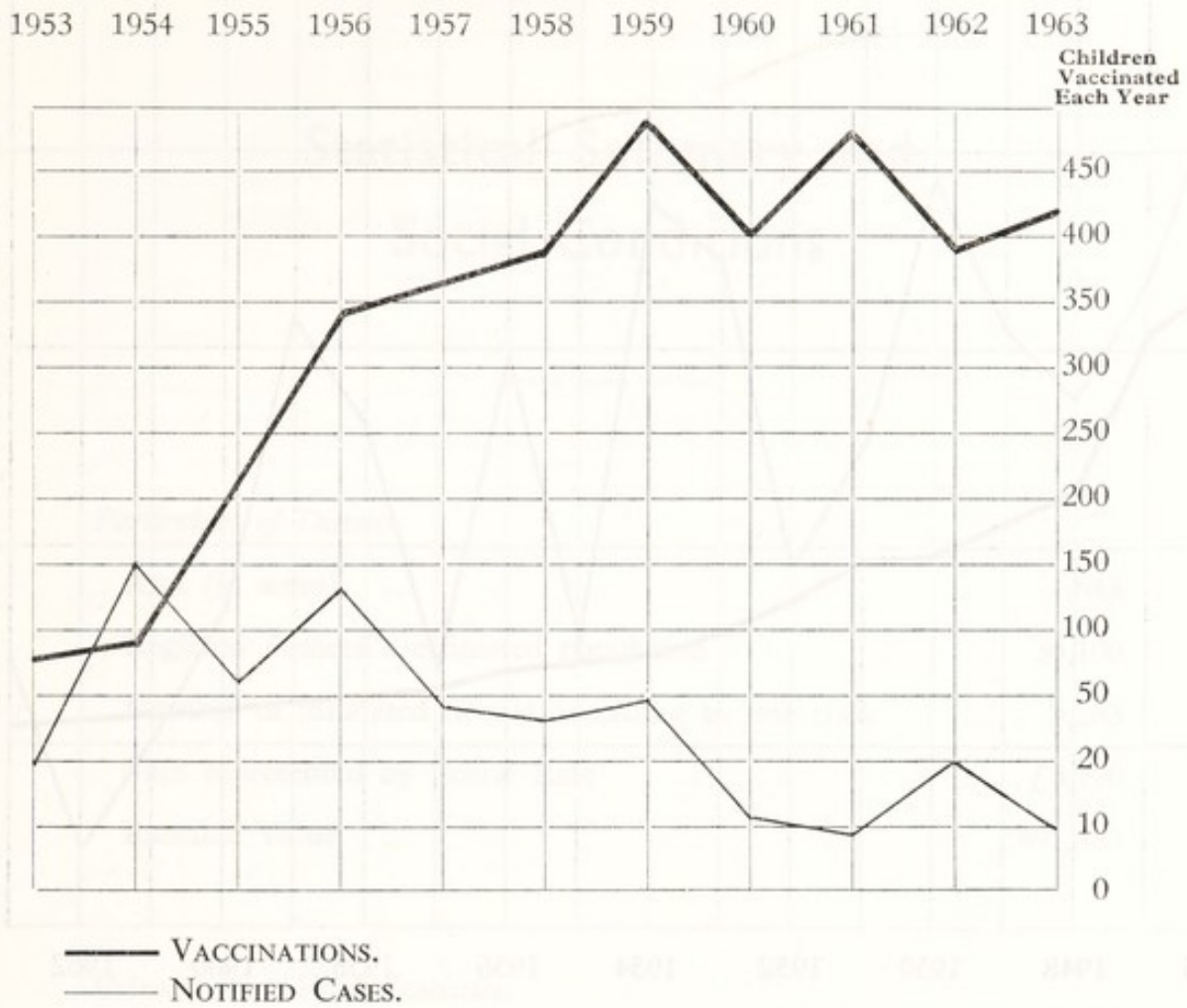
10. DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES CO-OPERATION WITH VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Early in the year, following the issue of Circulars 7/62 and 18/62 by the Ministry of Health, a co-ordinating committee was set up in the South Area consisting of some members of the Health and Welfare Committees of the County Council, members or representatives of the four District Councils, and representatives of the Voluntary Organisations.

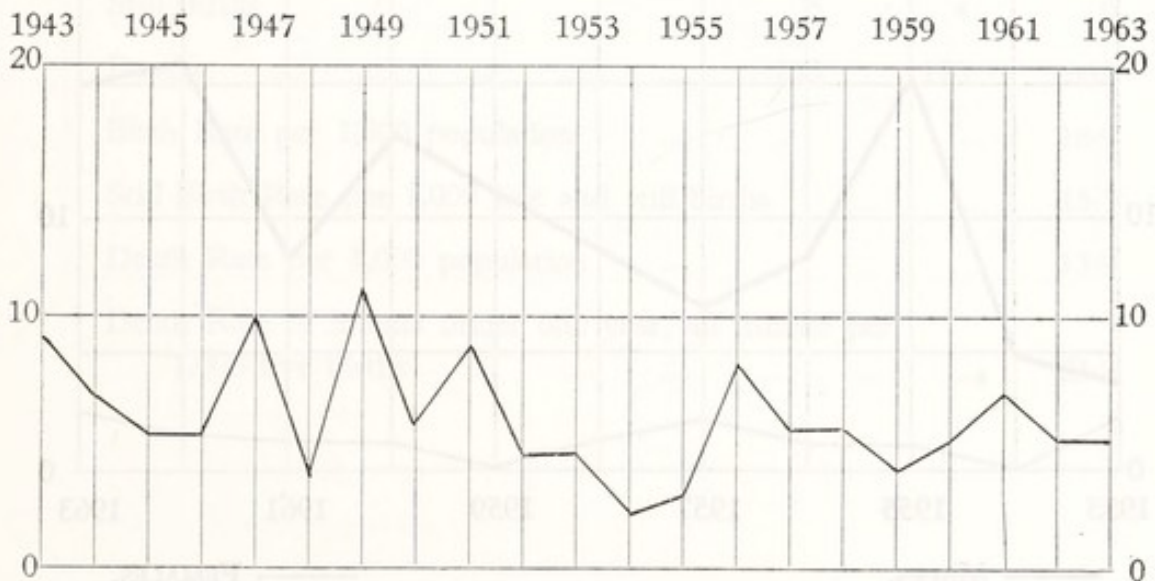
Regular two-monthly meetings were subsequently held during the year and it was satisfactory to observe the progress made in a relatively short time and the enthusiasm combined with efficiency with which the organisations settled down to help.

A schedule of "Services available concerning Voluntary and Statutory Welfare Services" was compiled and a copy sent to doctors, nurses, and hospitals. This was much appreciated.

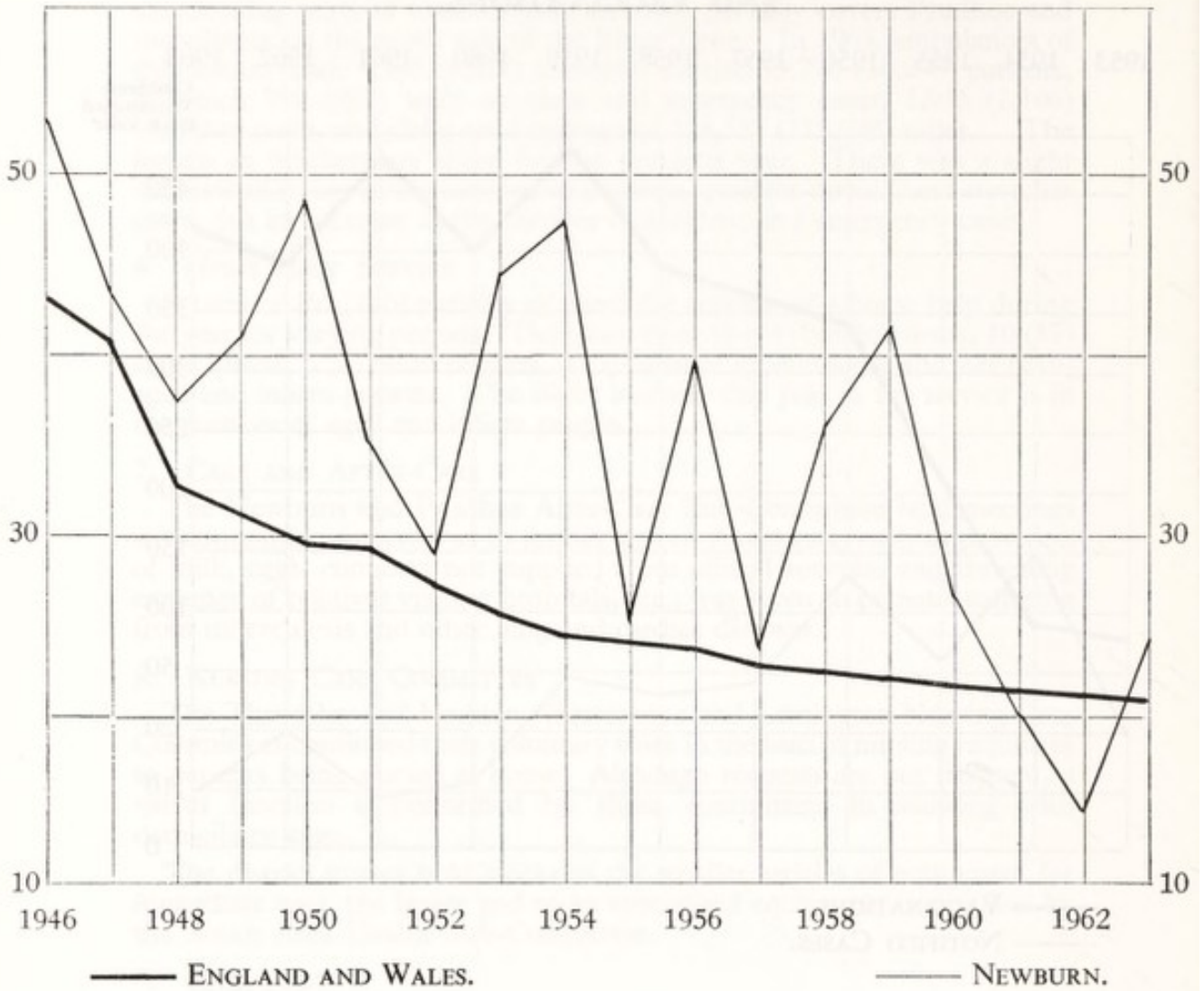
WHOOPIING COUGH—COMPARISON OF NOTIFIED CASES AND VACCINATIONS



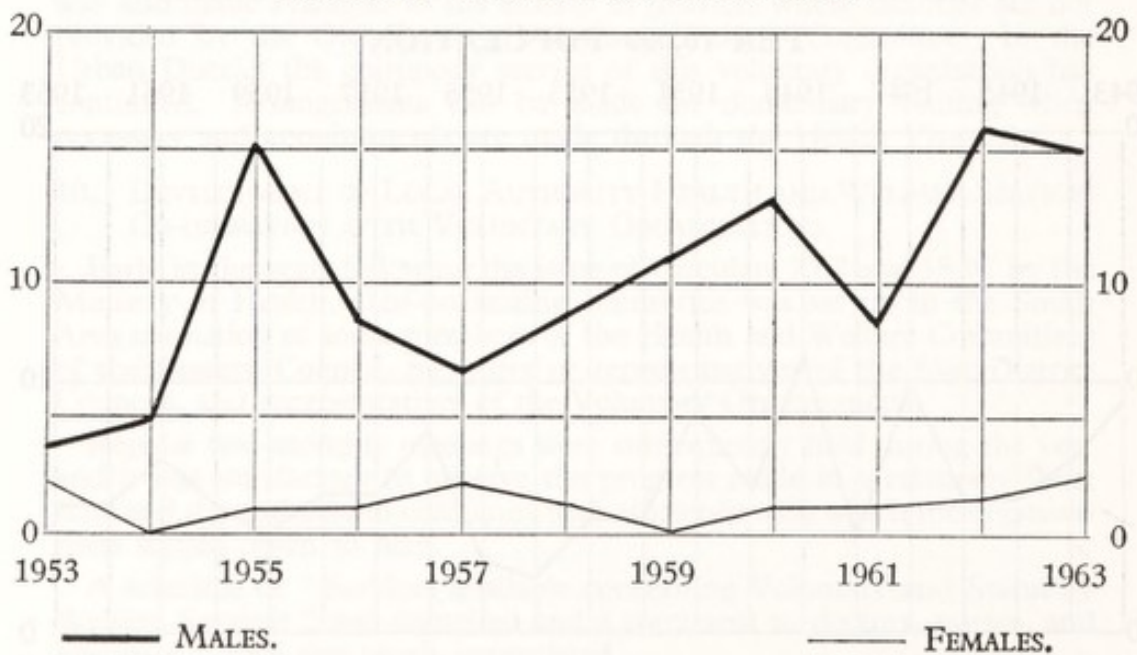
COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES OF BRONCHITIS PER 10,000 POPULATION



INFANT MORTALITY RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS



DEATHS FROM LUNG CANCER



Statistical Summary and Social Conditions

Particulars of District.

Area (in acres)	4,648
Registrar General's estimated population	30,100
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book	9,283
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£3,770
Rateable Value	£891,883

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Live Births (legitimate)	284	285	569
Live Births (illegitimate)	4	14	18
Still Births	5	4	9
Deaths	163	170	333
Birth Rate per 1,000 population			18.9
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births			15.1
Death Rate per 1,000 population			13.9
Death Rate of infants under one year, all infants per 1,000 live births			23.9

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE NEWBURN AREA, 1963
(Registrar General's Return)

Figures in parenthesis indicate deaths in the Lemington Hospital

All Causes	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, Others	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1	2
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	5	8
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus	15	2	17
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	3	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	3	3
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	12	27
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	2	3
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	26	31(7)	57
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	39	28(1)	67
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	5(1)	9
20. Other Heart Disease	12	31(1)	43
21. Other Circulatory Disease	6	7(1)	13
22. Influenza	1	2	3
23. Pneumonia	7	6(5)	13
24. Bronchitis	8	7(4)	15
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum	2	1	3
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	1	5	6
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	9	12(1)	21
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	1	1
34. All other Accidents	6	1	7
35. Suicide	1	2	3
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—

**BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION
AND INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE-BIRTHS**

Year	Births		Deaths		Infant Mortality	
	Newborn	England and Wales	Newborn	England and Wales	Newborn	England and Wales
1944	21.29	18.1	10.46	11.6	56.5	46.0
1945	19.69	16.5	12.83	11.4	48.5	46.0
1946	21.14	19.6	11.43	11.5	53.6	43.0
1947	23.27	21.0	10.9	12.0	43.4	41.0
1948	19.62	18.3	11.2	10.8	28.6	34.0
1949	18.11	16.7	11.32	11.7	20.8	32.0
1950	17.9	15.8	12.9	11.6	48.7	29.8
1951	17.2	15.5	10.05	12.5	34.5	29.6
1952	15.7	15.3	10.03	11.3	29.1	27.6
1953	15.9	15.5	11.01	11.4	32.2	26.8
1954	16.4	15.2	13.3	11.3	46.8	25.4
1955	16.7	15.0	13.2	11.7	25.5	24.9
1956	17.1	15.7	10.9	11.7	39.7	23.7
1957	16.9	16.1	13.5	11.5	23.5	23.1
1958	16.7	16.4	13.4	11.7	36.3	22.6
1959	16.7	16.5	15.5	11.6	41.8	22.2
1960	16.04	17.1	14.6	11.5	26.7	21.7
1961	16.8	17.4	13.6	12.0	19.8	21.6
1962	17.1	18.0	13.7	11.9	14.7	21.4
1963	18.9	18.2	13.9	12.2	23.8	20.9

Number of Infant Deaths in 1963 14

Causes of Death.

Prematurity	.....	5
Congenital Heart Disease	.....	4
Pneumonia	.....	2
Bronchitis	.....	1
Gastro Enteritis	.....	1
Asphyxia	.....	1

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—YEAR 1963

Number of Cases

DISEASE	0—		1—		2—		3—		4—		5—9		10—14		15—24		25 and over		Age Un- known		Total		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
Whooping Cough	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	4
Measles	4	8	31	26	29	24	35	33	32	31	116	102	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	249	227	
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1

DISEASE	Under 5		5—14		15—44		45—64		65 and over		Age Un- known		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Pneumonia	3	-	1	1	1	1	7	4	1	4	-	-	13	10
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3

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
Faeces specimens Salmonella (enteritidis)	15	....	13
Faeces specimens Salmonella (typhi murium)....	14	....	9
Faeces specimens C. Welchii	3	....	11
Faeces specimens Flexner Dysentery	8	....	14
Faeces specimens Sonne Dysentery ....	—	....	3
Throat Swab Haemolytic Streptococci....	—	....	1
Nasal Swab Coagulase Staphylococci	1	....	—

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1963

(a) Food Poisoning notifications (corrected) as returned to Registrar General					Nil
(b) Cases otherwise ascertained					Nil
(c) Symptomless Excretors					Nil
(d) Fatal Cases					Nil
Particulars of Outbreaks					Nil
Single Cases					Nil

SALMONELLA INFECTIONS, NOT FOOD-BORNE

Salmonella (type)	Outbreaks		No. of cases	Single cases	Total No. of cases (outbreaks and single cases)
	Family	Other	(Outbreaks)		
S. enteritidis....	—	—	—	1	1
S. typhi murium	—	—	—	1	1
Total	—	—	—	2	2

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1963

QUARTER ENDED	Number of cases on register at commencement of quarter		Number of cases notified for the first time		Inward transfers		Number of cases removed from a preceding quarter which have been restored to the register during the quarter		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	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
31st March, 1963—												
Males 	100	12	3	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	100	12
Females	81	25	1	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	83	25
30th June, 1963—												
Males 	100	12	7	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	106	12
Females	83	25	2	1	-	-	-	-	5	2	80	24
<i>Register Revised:</i>												
30th September, 1963—												
Males 	106	13	1	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	103	13
Females	74	20	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	73	20
31st December, 1963—												
Males 	103	13	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	104	14
Females	73	20	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	74	20

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES NOTIFIED				INWARD TRANSFERS				DEATHS			
	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-24 years	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25-44 years	6	3	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-64 years	6	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	12	6	1	-	4	3	-	1	4	3	1	-
	18		1		7		1		1		1	
	19				8				1			

TABLE OF DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
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
1953....	1	—	1
1954....	4	—	4
1955....	4	—	4
1956....	3	—	3
1957....	—	—	—
1958....	4	—	4
1959....	—	—	—
1960....	1	—	1
1961....	3	—	3
1962....	2	—	2
1963....	1	—	1

TABLE OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
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
1953....	15	9	3	3	30
1954....	11	9	1	2	23
1955....	15	9	1	3	28
1956....	7	9	2	5	23
1957....	14	7	1	1	23
1958....	9	14	1	2	26
1959....	3	6	1	1	11
1960....	7	6	1	2	16
1961....	8	4	1	3	16
1962....	6	4	—	1	11
1963....	12	4	1	1	18

Annual Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

For the Year ended 1963

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

In my previous reports I have been able to comment on the introduction of Smoke Control Areas at Chapel House Farm Estate, West Denton, and at Leazes Estate, Throckley, but unfortunately in 1963 it was not found possible to bring into operation the relatively small area at West Denton comprising Chapel House Road, Chapel House Drive, Northcote Avenue, and Westlands. This was largely due to the uncertainty of the position regarding supplies of smokeless fuel suitable for burning on open fires. Further delay was caused through absence of a Ministry decision regarding payment of grant towards the installation of stoves suitable for burning hard coke, in houses already fitted with approved open fires. It is hoped these difficulties will be resolved so that the third Smoke Control Order will be made in 1964.

A brighter picture is presented of another aspect of environmental hygiene, namely, the paper sack system of refuse collection which extended steadily throughout the year. At Chapel House Farm Estate the number of sack holders supplied increased from 528 to 712, and 60 were provided at the Council's Phase 1 development at The Leazes, Throckley. A report on the introduction and development of the system at Chapel House Estate was requested for publication in *The Sanitarian*, the official journal of the Association of Public Health Inspectors, and for record purposes the report is reproduced herein.

In dealing with refuse collection generally, I would refer to the annual Costing Return submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, a copy of which is set out on page 39. The net cost per 1,000 population was £705, compared with £764 in 1962, and per 1,000 premises was £2,078, compared with £2,224 in 1962. Income from disposal of salvage increased to £2,748 from £2,305 the previous year. These figures can be considered satisfactory and reflect credit on the efficiency of Mr. Gray, Foreman, and the refuse collection personnel. The use of Blucher Quarry as a refuse tip was discontinued at the end of July, the tip being left in a condition satisfactory to the requirements of John T. Bell and Sons, who were developing an estate in which the quarry was to be included as a feature in landscaping. Arrangements were made with the National Coal Board for a quarry at Throckley to be used for tipping purposes.

In the field of housing, better progress was made than in the previous year, 84 families being rehoused from condemned property and 102 houses rendered fit after informal or statutory action. The position regarding

slum clearance is shown in a table on page 35. A well-maintained payment claim submitted in respect of 28 houses at Pit Cottages, Newburn, by the National Coal Board was accepted and payment averaging £52 4s. 8d. per house was approved.

An increased number of inspections of food-handling premises was carried out, but formal action under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, was not necessary. As in 1962, however, prosecutions had to be instituted under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, details being as follows:—

- (1) a loaf of bread contaminated with oil—the manufacturer was fined £25 with six guineas costs;
- (2) sausage rolls affected with mould—the retailer was fined £25 with £6 8s. costs;
- (3) scones affected with mould (the same retailer as (2))—the retailer was fined £40 with £6 8s. costs.

In addition, action under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, secured a conviction against a dairy for not thoroughly cleansing a milk bottle before filling it with milk. A fine of £5 with 17 guineas costs was imposed.

As in previous years, I record my sincere appreciation of the encouragement given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and of the ready co-operation of Dr. Hopper and the other officials of the Council.

Mr. George Graham and Mrs. Redhead have continued to carry out their duties in a commendable manner. Mr. James Graham, after training as a pupil and qualifying, was appointed as Additional Public Health Inspector in April, and Mr. Trevor Harris was appointed as a pupil in August. They have both proved very useful members of the department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. CORNEY,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

THE PAPER SACK SYSTEM OF REFUSE COLLECTION

*A description of the introduction and development
of a pilot scheme in an expanding private
housing estate.*

In January, 1961, arrangements were made for a film on the Paper Sack System of Refuse Collection to be shown to members of the Council's Health Committee. The interest this film evoked resulted in enquiries being made concerning the system from local authorities operating pilot schemes, and eventually in the Council deciding to introduce the system on an estate to be developed.

The estate, known as the Chapel House Farm Estate, is situated at West Denton, approximately in the centre of the urban district, some 300 feet above sea level and exposed to high winds from west and north. It covers an area of 190 acres and it is designed to accommodate some 1,700 houses, together with shops, schools, and churches. It was also to be declared a smoke control area.

The estate developers agreed to the operation of the system and, in lieu of supplying a dustbin for each house as was their practice, they kindly consented to defray the cost of the provision of sack holders by the amount they would have paid for dustbins.

Quotations for the supply of 600 holders and 20,000 sacks were invited and the successful firm, in accordance with our requirements, arranged for the manufacture of a holder, circular in shape and with a circumference of 56 in., it being felt that a large aperture would reduce the spillage liable to occur from the deposit of ashes into the sack.

The holders were of the wall-mounting type, fixing to be effected by securing a stout galvanised metal plate, drilled to take four nails or bolts, to brickwork. The sacks were manufactured of kraft paper base with a bitumen emulsion added, and were available in lightweight or heavyweight grades. The lightweight sack was chosen in the first instance.

In considering the method of fixing the holders, it was decided against using an automatic cartridge hammer because of unfortunate experiences by another local authority in its use. A patent tool using special hardened nails was tried but was discontinued when it was found that (1) a proportion of the nails fractured on percussion, (2) bricks were frequently split, (3) the mortar did not provide a suitable "key" for the nail.

Rawbolts of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter were tried, a normal hand-drill with tungsten-tipped drill being used after inconvenience had been experienced in operating an electric drill, through access to electricity supply in unoccupied houses being time-wasting. It was found that two bolts only instead of four were sufficient for effective fixing.

Bricklayers from the surveyor's department carried out the work, and after the first few weeks the cost of fixing a holder worked out at 4s.—2s. 6d. labour and 1s. 6d. materials. The holders were fixed on rear walls or on fuel store walls at the request of the householder, at a height of 3 ft. 6 in., high enough to prevent a $2\frac{1}{2}$ cu. ft. sack touching the ground but not too high to prevent a person of average height using the holder without difficulty. The cost of the holders was 38s. each and the sacks 393s. per thousand, delivered.

In a letter of welcome to the district, signed by the Chairman of the Health Committee, householders were informed that they were coming into an estate which was in a smoke control area and in which the paper sack system of refuse collection was to be introduced as an experiment. Any difficulties would be resolved by the staff of the Health Department.

On Friday, 10th November, 1961, sacks were collected for the first time from newly-occupied houses, ten in number and thereafter weekly in increasing numbers.

Difficulties experienced during the winter months of 1961-62 were :

1.—Failure of sacks through—

- (a) deposit of hot ashes—two cases only;
- (b) high winds and heavy rain;
- (c) packing of hard, bulky materials—e.g., linoleum;
- (d) attacks by animals.

2.—Failure of holders through—

- (a) sack-clamps being too slack;
- (b) sack-clamps being too tight.

3.—Large amount of packing materials brought from previous residence to new premises and then discarded.

4.—Slowing down of freighter because of unmade roads, having to negotiate heaps of building materials, and waiting for contractors' vehicles to unload and move on.

In an attempt to overcome sack failures because of high winds, metal bands, slightly larger than the circumference of the sack were fixed about two-thirds from the top of the sack, to prevent swinging. This did not prove entirely satisfactory but it suggested the idea of a metal cage protection for the sack. One or two prototype cage-holders were manufactured by a West Hartlepool firm and these proved very successful, although it was felt that the sack-strength could be improved to achieve complete freedom from sack failure. Sacks of "80" strength were substituted for those of "40" strength and these were found to stand up much better to weather conditions, but their price (almost double that of the "40's") ruled them out for permanent use. The firm supplying the sacks was asked to produce a sack of "80" strength at "40" weight and price, and this was eventually done in July, 1963. In addition, the price was reduced from 393s. to 333s. per thousand.

The Council had decided to levy a charge of 7s. 6d. per annum under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Charge for Dustbin) Order, 1957, and this amount was claimed at the time the rate demands were issued. This charge aroused a storm of protest from the householders affected, who felt that, as they were being used as "guinea-pigs" for the possible development of a new scheme, they should not have to pay a special rate for this service. On reconsideration, the Council withdrew the 7s. 6d. charge and criticisms of the scheme virtually ceased.

By the end of 1962, 490 houses had been supplied with holders, 247 being of the cage type, and experience had been gained over a period of very adverse weather conditions, which proved that the cage provided a high degree of protection.

It was now becoming apparent that the system was being accepted by the householders as having advantages over the dustbin system, comments about the better standard of hygiene and absence of noise being frequently

heard. The refuse collectors, similarly, were by now geared to the rhythm of the system and found it cleaner and less fatiguing. The speed of collection remained short of expectations, largely due to the conditions prevailing already referred to on a developing estate, coupled with the occupying of odd houses dotted about the estate necessitating a certain amount of "dead-time" running. At this time it was calculated that three sacks were being dealt with where two dustbins would have been.

Three months later 530 houses had been supplied with holders and the ratio of sacks to bins collected was estimated at 8 : 5.

By May, 1963, all the wall-fixed holders had been replaced, and 554 cage-holders had been supplied. At the time of writing (December, 1963), 700 cage-holders have been supplied. The manufacturers described their cage-holder as follows:—

"The Refuse Sack Container has been designed to hold a 3 or 3½ cu. ft. paper sack. The principle is to support the sack on an elevated base and retain an open neck of the sack by concentric rings, being bands of steel on edge to hold the mouth of the sack open. The body of the container is surrounded with expanded metal and the container is capped with a lid.

Size of Container

Height for the 3 cu. ft. model—2 ft. 4 in.

Height for the 3½ cu. ft. model—2 ft. 9 in.

Diameter—top 16 in., bottom 22½ in., for both containers.

Construction

The container is of all-steel construction and hot spelter galvanised after fabrication. The top ring consists of two flat steel on edge bars, the inside one welded to the main framework of the body and the outer one, together with the lid, pivotted on a hinge. The steel bars are welded to Expanded Steel No. 123 1 in. mesh with the longway of the mesh running vertically. The body is made in two parts, one being fixed and the other being in the form of a door with two hinges and fixed with a spring clip.

Special Points

The container, being all welded and of steel construction, hot spelter galvanised after fabrication, contains no loose parts and is suitably protected against all weather and corrosion and may be left out in all weathers. The base is raised from the ground to ensure that the sack does not lie in pools of water but is kept clear of the ground with an elevated base. The two concentric rings at the top ensure that the sack is supported on its full diameter and reduces wear and tear at this vulnerable part. The lid when raised is held back by stops to facilitate easier closing and to eliminate wear and tear of the lid opening. The expanded metal is of strong gauge and is designed to protect the sack from animal attack and being blown by the wind.

Methods of Use

The lid and outer ring are lifted at the top of the container, the sack is then lowered in, the top edge of the sack is pressed round the internal steel ring, the external clamp ring is then lowered, securing the clamp in position, the bag then rests on the elevated platform and is filled during the week with refuse. For removal of the sack the outer clamp ring and lid are lifted, the spring clip on the door released and the bag slipped out sideways, the door is then re-fastened and a new sack replaced as previously mentioned."

The estate was being developed in sections and once sections A and B had been completed and the occupants had become familiar with the system the freighter was re-routed to cut out all unnecessary running and this resulted in a further increase in the rate of collection, 120 sacks per hour being collected and transported to the tipping site. This rate of collection was nearly approaching the target of two sacks to one dustbin.

Since the introduction of the "improved" sack in July, 1963, the number of sack failures has been negligible and then the fault was due to the householder dropping large stones into the sack and also attempting to press in excessive quantities of garden refuse.

Special slings were used by the lifters for carrying sacks to the houses, and here it was found that the lightweight sack had an advantage over the 2-ply sack in that being lighter a proportionately larger number of sacks could be carried. A bundle of 100 single-ply sacks weighed 31 lb., against 42 lb. for a similar number of 2-ply sacks.

An ordinary newspaper satchel was tried instead of a sling and this was found to be an advantage in that the sacks were prevented from sliding when the lifter bent down to carry the full sack from its holder.

A 16/18 cu. yd. fore and aft tipping freighter was used, and it was found that 160 3 cu. ft. sacks could be carried on one load, the average weight of refuse being 30 lb. per sack. The weight of refuse in individual sacks varied from 10 lb. to 53 lb.

Based on the cost of operating a freighter with driver and four lifters being 32s. per hour and that 120 sacks can be dealt with as against 70 bins in one hour, comparative costs are as follows:—

Collection cost per sack	....	....	....	....	3·2d.
Collection cost per bin	....	....	....	....	5·5d.
Saving per sack	....	....	....	....	2·3d.
Cost of provision of sack	....	....	....	....	4·0d.
Excess cost of sack over bin collected	....	....	....	....	1·7d.

With a once-weekly collection the increased cost for 700 houses would be £4 19s. 2d. per week or £258 per annum. With the completed estate of 1,700 houses the increased cost per year would be £626. With the product of 1d. rate at £3,770 the rate demand would be ·17d. (NOTE: These figures are based on an hourly rate of 5s. 4½d. for a bin lifter.)

Disposal of sacks on the tip has not caused difficulties in the operation of controlled tipping. Sacks which have not been burst on discharge from the freighter are readily torn apart by the action of the tractor bucket. A tractor with blade or bucket equipment is used and the refuse in sacks, which comprises approximately one-fifteenth of the total amount of refuse tipped, can be comfortably dealt with.

No fire has occurred on the tip and breakdown of the sacks has not created a problem, although it is recognised that the scheme has not been in operation long enough, nor is the quantity of refuse in sacks large enough to state that this will always be so.

It may be concluded that the paper sack system of refuse collection has been accepted by the householders on this particular estate and by the refuse collectors as superior to the dustbin system, that its operation, when once established, creates no additional problem, and its increased cost is not as excessive as had been anticipated.

J. CORNEY,

DECEMBER, 1963.

Senior Public Health Inspector.









INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICT

<i>Nature of Inspections:</i>	VISITS
Clean Air Act	286
Disinfection	5
Disinfestation	99
Factories Act, Section 7	88
Section 1-6	11
Food and Drugs Act	202
Housing	765
Infectious Diseases	130
Ice-cream Sampling	6
Meat Inspection	68
Moveable Dwellings	15
National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47	5
Keeping of Animals	2
Nuisances	58
Paper Sack System	186
Public Health Education	1
Refuse Collection and Disposal	590
Rodent Control	41
Miscellaneous...	148
Sanitary Accommodation	1
Shops Act, 1950	2
Smoke Control Area	575
Total Visits for 1963	3,279

Defects Remedied:

Brickwork repointed or rebuilt	14
Burst pipes repaired	10
Ceilings repaired	5
Choked drains cleared	17
Concrete surfaces repaired or renewed	10
Dampness remedied	13
Doors repaired or renewed	25
Dustbins provided	23
Eaves gutters repaired	8
Floors repaired	10
Fireplaces repaired	3
Handrails repaired	1
Plasterwork repaired...	11
Rain-water pipes repaired	4
Roofs repaired	25
Rubbish removed	1
Sinks repaired or renewed	4
Smoke emission remedied	4
Waste pipes repaired	7
W.C. apparatus overhauled	23
Windows repaired	7
Woodwork repaired or renewed	2
Nuisances remedied	3

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1963

Houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	92	—	92
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By Private Persons	—	278	278

Total number of inhabited houses in District

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION.

(a) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	36
(b) Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	67
(c) Houses closed, not demolished	32
(d) Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	Nil

REPAIRS.

Houses made fit by proceedings either Housing or Public Health Acts.

(a) By informal notice	92
(b) By owners following statutory action	8
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners...	2
(d) Demolition Order revoked after reconstruction	Nil
(e) Houses in clearance areas patched for temporary accommodation	Nil

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

(1) *Discretionary.*

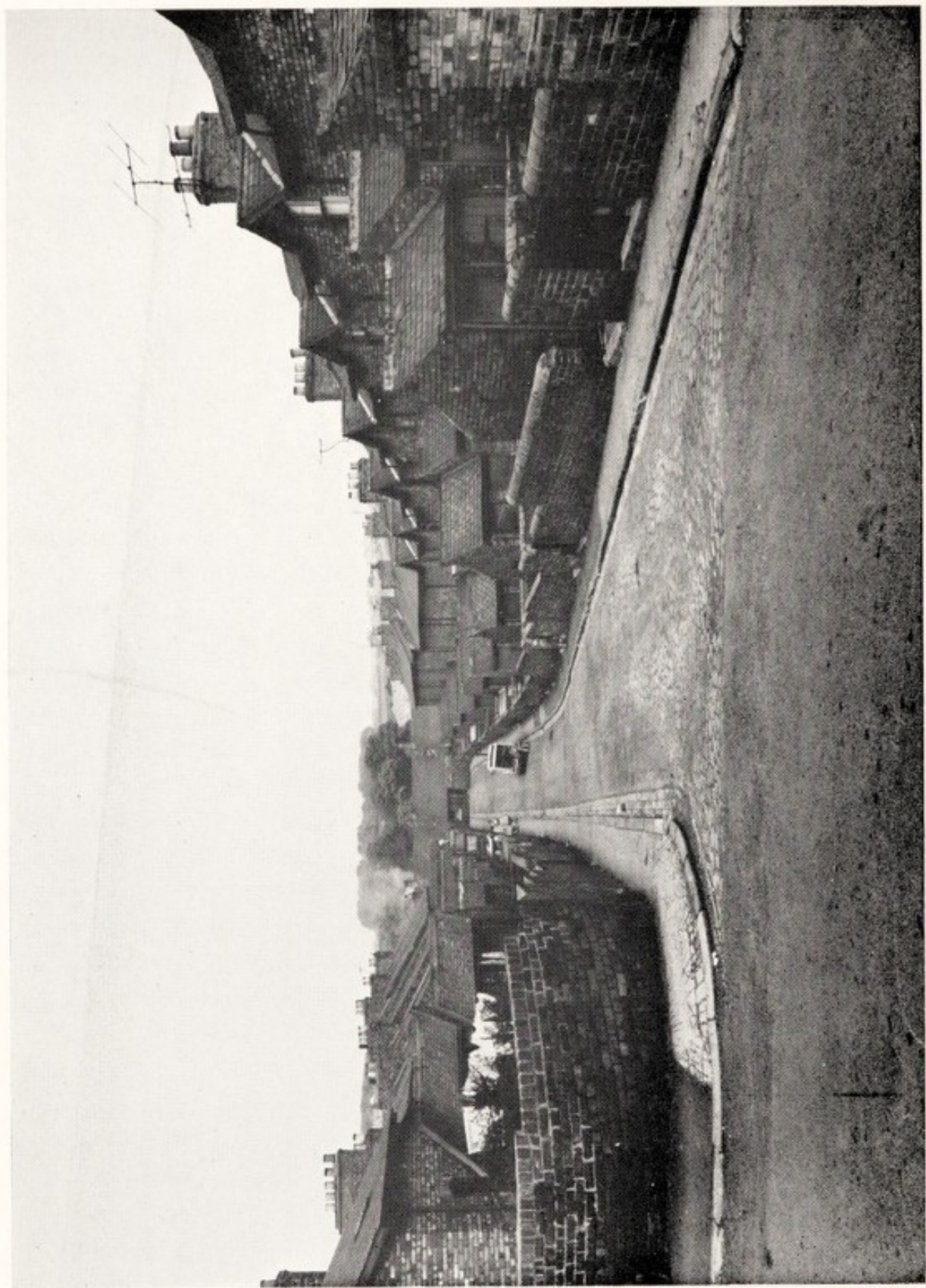
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	25
(b) Applications rejected	Nil
(c) Applications approved	25
(d) Approximate average grant approved per house...	£362
(e) Total number of houses approved for grant in area since inception of scheme	231

(2) *Standard.*

	During the year	Total to date
(a) Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	30	127
(b) Number of houses so provided with:—		
(1) Bath or shower	23	94
(2) Wash hand basin	24	103
(3) Hot water supply	23	90
(4) Water closet	24	99
(5) Food store	21	65



OFFICE ROW, NEWBURN—JUNE, 1963



REAR OF ALBERT AND VICTORIA TERRACES, NEWBURN—JUNE, 1963

CLEARANCE AREA PROGRAMME, 1956

YEAR 1963

	Location	No. of houses to be demolished	Remarks
<i>First Five Years.</i>			
1st Year	Bank Top, Throckley	29	Rehoused 1957/58
	Fireman's Row, Newburn	12	„ 1957/58
	Chapel Row, North Walbottle	11	„ 1956/57
	Laurel Street, Throckley	20	„ 1958
2nd Year	Maple Street, Throckley	26	„ 1959/60
	Sycamore Street, Throckley	26	„ 1958/59
	Beech Street, Throckley	19	„ 1960
3rd Year	Ash Street East, Throckley	5	„ 1960
	Elm Street, Throckley....	26	„ 1962
	Ash Street, Throckley	15	„ 1963
	Coronation Row, North Walbottle	10	„ 1963
4th Year	The Green, Low Square, School Bank, and Queen's Row, Walbottle	21	
	Northumberland Terrace, Newburn	11	„ 1963
	Pit Bank and Paper Mill, Scots- wood	12	„ 1957/61
5th Year	Albert Terrace, Newburn	19	} Clearance Order confirmed June, 1963 Rehoused 1963
	Victoria Terrace, Newburn	17	
	Pit Cottages, Throckley	26	6 rehoused 1963
	Temporary Prefabricated Bunga- lows, Lemington	50	
<i>Second Five Years.</i>			
6th Year	Mount Pleasant, Throckley	68	
7th Year	Union Street, Lemington	43	
8th Year	Stanley Street, Lemington	41	
	Lloyd Street, Lemington	24	
9th Year	Dene Terrace, Walbottle	31*	
	North View, North Walbottle....	18	

* Delete, Improvement Grants authorised, after repair work completed.

Individual unfit houses dealt with.

Number	Year
6	1957
2	1958
5	1959
3	1960
4	1961
1	1962
6	1963

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	6	11	1	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	48	88	4	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	54	99	5	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	1	1	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	3	—	3	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).....	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	5	—	3	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK (Section 133)

Nature of Work	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing apparel :			
Making, etc.	4	—	—
Cleaning and washing	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTIONS

UN SOUND FOOD.	SURRENDERED
Tins of Meat Products	35 tins
Tins of Peas, Beans, Fruit, etc.	128 tins
Frozen Food	260 packets

MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959

Number of Registered Dairies	6
Number of Registered Distributors	42

ICE-CREAM PREMISES

Number on Register at commencement of year	58
Number on Register at end of year	63

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	1
---	---

FOOD PREMISES

Number of shops where food is handled	126
Number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955—	
Butcher	13
Fried Fish	15
Ice-cream	63
Mussels	1
	92

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, who operate a filtration plant and laboratories at Throckley, where a strict control on the purity of the supply is maintained. The water supply continues to be satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

There are no houses in the district where water is obtained from a stand-pipe.

MEAT INSPECTION

Number of carcasses inspected:

CATTLE	SHEEP	PIGS
330	735	68

Small quantities of condemned meat are disposed of on the Council's refuse tip under the supervision of the foreman. Larger quantities, after staining, are removed by a firm of chemical manufacturers for treatment.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSE REGISTRATION

There is no common lodging-house in the district.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following return is forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food relating to action taken during the year ended 31st December, 1963.

	Local Authority	Type of Property		Totals	Agri-cultural
		Non-Agricultural			
		Dwelling-houses, including Council Houses	All other (including Business Premises)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's district	19	9,283	882	10,184	26
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of notification	—	50	12	62	—
Rats { Major	—	4	2	6	—
Minor	—	38	10	48	—
Mice { Major	—	—	1	1	—
Minor	—	8	—	8	—
3. Number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	5	—	—	5	—
Rats { Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	2	—	—	2	—
Mice { Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
4. Number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	9	787	116	912	3
Rats { Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
Mice { Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Sections 2, 3, and 4) treated by the Local Authority	2	50	12	64	—
6. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work	—	—	—	—	—
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	3	—	—	—	—

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN, 1963-64

Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Total
GROSS EXPENDITURE—	£	£	£
Labour	14,379	352	14,731
Transport	5,028	2,439	7,467
Plant, Equipment, Land, and Buildings.....	2,167	79	2,246
Total Gross Expenditure	21,574	2,870	24,444
GROSS INCOME.....	471	2,748	3,219
NET COST	21,103	122	21,225
Capital Expenditure met from Revenue	236	59	295
UNIT COSTS—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Gross cost per ton—Labour only	27 6	0 8	28 2
Gross cost per ton—Transport only	9 7	4 8	14 3
Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	40 4	0 3	40 7
	£	£	£
Net cost per 1,000 population	701	4	705
Net cost per 1,000 premises	2,066	12	2,078

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Area (statute acres)—Land and inland water	4,648 acres
Population at 30th June, 1963	30,100 persons
Total refuse collected	10,464 tons
Weight (cwt.) per 1,000 population per day	19.0 cwt.
Number of premises from which refuse is collected	10,210 premises
Premises from which collections are made at least at once-weekly intervals	100 per cent. of total
Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point	2½ miles
Kerbside collection (if practised)	Nil
Total refuse disposed of	10,464

Methods of disposal (salvage excluded):

(a) Crude tipping	Nil
(b) Controlled tipping	100 per cent.
(c) Separation/controlled tipping	Nil
(d) Direct incineration	Nil
(e) Separation and incineration	Nil
(f) Other methods	Nil

Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage:

	Income £	Tonnage Collected Tons
(a) Raw Kitchen Waste	Nil	Nil
(b) Scrap Metal	255	16
(c) Waste Paper	2,483	312
(d) Other Salvage	10	1
	2,748	329

Trade Refuse:

(a) Income	Nil
(b) Tonnage	Nil

