

[Report 1936] / Medical Officer of Health, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough.

Contributors

Newcastle-under-Lyme (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1936

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Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

FOR THE YEAR 1936

BY

ADAM WHITE, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.,

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and
Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
Ironmarket,
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME,
Staffs.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1936.

The birth-rate for the year (16.7 per thousand of the population) is above the average rate for the district in recent years and it is also considerably higher than the corresponding rates for England and Wales as a whole and for the divisions into which the country is divided for statistical purposes.

The death-rate (11.58) is rather below the average rate for the Borough in recent years and it is also below the corresponding rate for England and Wales as a whole.

The infantile mortality rate (62.62 per thousand births) is below the average for the Borough in recent years but it is a degree higher than the corresponding rate for England and Wales as a whole.

I desire to thank the members of the Committee generally for the support which they have given me throughout the year, and to express my thanks to all the members of the staff for the way in which they have co-operated with and assisted me.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
ADAM WHITE

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area.

The area of the Borough is 8,882 acres.

Population, etc.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for 1936 is 61,200.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1936 according to the rate books was 17,680.

Rateable Value, etc.

The rateable value of the Borough is £273,432 and one penny rate in the £ (General Rate) produces £975, exclusive of voids, etc.

Social Conditions.

The following industrial undertakings are situated within the district :—

Coal Mines ...	...	...	5
Ironstone Mines ...	...	...	1
Brick Yards ...	...	...	19
Chemical Works ...	...	...	3
Wagon Works ...	...	...	1
Colour Works ...	...	...	1
Engineering Works ...	...	...	1
Tar Macadam Works ...	...	...	3
Bone Works ...	...	...	1
Slag Works... ...	...	...	2
Cotton Factory ...	...	...	1
Clothing Factory ...	...	...	1
Fustian Mills ...	...	...	2
Paper Mills... ...	...	...	1
Saw Mills ...	...	...	1
Pottery ...	...	...	1
Laundries ...	...	...	2
Foundries ...	...	...	4

In addition, the town serves as a shopping centre for contiguous areas and accordingly we find in it shops, garages and such other business premises as one would expect to encounter in a centre of population of this character.

With regard to the extent of unemployment, I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information. The average weekly unemployment figure for the Newcastle-under-Lyme area during 1936 was 3,575, as compared with 4,160 for the year 1935. The present figure is approximately 20 per cent. of the insured population, as against 23 per cent. for the year 1935. 22 per cent. for the year 1934, 25 per cent. for the year 1933, and 37 per cent. for the year 1932. According to the Ministry of Labour Gazette the average percentage of unemployed throughout Great Britain for 1936 was 14 per cent., varying from 16 per cent. in January to 12.2 per cent. in December.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

		Total	Male	Female	Rate	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	999	536	463	16.7	per 1000 population
	{ Illegitimate	23	11	12		
Stillbirths	... ..	44	25	19	41.28	per 1000 total live and still births
Deaths	... ..	709	346	363	11.58	

Deaths and death-rates from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 total births
Puerperal sepsis	3	2.81
Other puerperal causes	4	3.75
Total	7	6.56

Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births :—

Total	62.62
Legitimate	62.06
Illegitimate... ..	86.96
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	103
Deaths from measles (all ages)	8
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	6

346
 363
 51709
 140
 66709
 118
 7

Table 1.
CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH						Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	346	363
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	1	—
2.	Measles	...	...	...	...	5	3
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	1	—
4.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	1	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	6
7.	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	1
8.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	—	1
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	18	15
10.	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	9	6
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	2	1
12.	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	2	2
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	42	61
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	5	6
15.	Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	14	26
16.	Heart disease...	...	...	...	...	92	79
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	2	—
18.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	17	14
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	18	12
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	24	26
21.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	5	3
22.	Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	5	1
23.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	4	2
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	2	2
25.	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Other diseases of liver, etc....	...	...	...	...	—	5
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	1	5
28.	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	8	11
29.	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	3
30.	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—	4
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	13	15
32.	Senility	...	...	...	...	5	14
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	—
34.	Other violence	...	...	...	...	18	8
35.	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	26	31
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	—	—

Causes of Sickness.

The increased incidence of scarlatina experienced during the years 1933, 1934 and 1935 was continued during 1936, but to a less extent. The disease was mild in type, there being only one death. Five apparently sporadic cases of cerebro-spinal fever were notified, and there was one death.

The seven cases of typhoid fever were associated aetiologically, but the three cases of paratyphoid were not. In none of these cases was the primary source of infection determined. A special report has already been made to the Ministry on this matter.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) *Medical.*

1. Medical Officer of Health who is also School Medical Officer, and Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.
2. The Deputy Medical Officer of Health, a part-time official.
3. Four part-time Medical Officers who attend the maternity and child welfare centres, and a part-time Medical Officer who attends at the ante-natal clinic.

(b) *Others.*

1. Chief Sanitary Inspector, who is also Cleansing Superintendent.
2. Deputy Sanitary Inspector, who is also an Inspector under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, etc.
3. Three District Sanitary Inspectors.

All the Inspectors possess Royal Sanitary Institute Certificates as Sanitary Inspectors and the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute relating to inspection of meat and other foods.

In addition the Chief Inspector holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificates for Sanitary Science and as a Smoke Inspector, the Liverpool University Meat and other Foods Certificate, and the Testamur of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

4. Five nurses, all whole-time. One of these nurses devotes the whole of her time to maternity and child welfare work and in the case of the other four, fifty per cent. of their time is devoted to maternity and child welfare work and fifty per cent. to school work.
5. The Public Analyst is a part-time officer and a Veterinary Surgeon is available for consultation.
6. Four clerks.
7. The hospital porter carries out disinfections.

Laboratory Facilities.

Specimens under the Food and Drugs Acts, and the Milk and Cream Regulations are dealt with by Mr. E. V. Jones, of the County Laboratory, Stafford, who is the Borough Analyst. Pathological specimens are dealt with at the County Laboratory at Stafford. The results of the examinations of the samples and specimens investigated during the year are stated in the appropriate sections.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Bradwell Committee have a motor ambulance for the removal of cases to their institution and, by an arrangement between the Committee and the Corporation, this ambulance is also used for the transport of cases to the Newcastle Isolation Hospital. For the removal of non-infectious cases there are available two motor ambulances, one belonging to the corporation and the other loaned to the corporation by the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

A. General.

There are three District Nursing Associations working in the Borough, one in the southern portion of the area (old Newcastle) employing two nurses, one in Wolstanton employing one nurse and one in Chesterton also employing one nurse. The Corporation make an annual grant to each of these Associations amounting to £10 per nurse employed by them.

B. *For Infectious Diseases.*

An arrangement has been made between the Council and the District Nursing Associations of Newcastle and Chesterton for the home nursing of children suffering from complicated measles. The fee paid by the Council to the Association is 1/6 per visit made by a nurse.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

(a) *Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.*

Of the five child welfare centres which are maintained by the Council, four are held in school clinics : one at Ellison Street School, Wolstanton, one at Broadmeadow School, Chesterton, one at the Senior Mixed School, Knutton, and one at the Council School, Silverdale. The fifth and largest centre is held at the Ebenezer School, Marsh Street, Newcastle. An ante-natal centre is held at the school clinic, No. 14, King Street, Newcastle. At all the child welfare centres accommodation is provided for waiting, for consultations and for the parking of prams, etc. The Marsh Street centre is open each Monday, the Broadmeadow centre each Thursday, and the Ellison Street and Silverdale centres each Wednesday ; while the Knutton centre is open on alternate Thursdays. The ante-natal centre is open each Friday afternoon.

(b) *School Clinics.*

There are five School Clinics in the Borough, particulars of which are given in the preceding paragraph.

(c) *Tuberculosis.*

A Tuberculosis Dispensary, maintained by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Tuberculosis Committee, is situated in Florence Street.

(d) *Venereal Disease.*

A Venereal Diseases Clinic provided and maintained under arrangements made between the County Council and the Governors of the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary is in operation at the Infirmary, which is situated in the adjoining City of Stoke-on-Trent.

Hospitals.

A. (1) *Infectious Diseases.*

The Newcastle Isolation Hospital, belonging to and situated in the Borough, is a 26 bed hospital. Cases from the old Newcastle area are admitted to this institution.

The Bradwell Joint Isolation Hospital, also situated within the Borough, belonging to the Bradwell Joint Isolation Hospital Committee of which the Borough Council is a constituent Authority, is a 45 bed hospital, admitting infectious diseases from the portion of the Borough originally forming the old Wolstanton United Urban District and from the Newcastle Rural District and Kidsgrove Urban District.

(2) *Small-pox.*

The Newcastle Borough Council is one of the Authorities which form the North Staffordshire Joint Small-pox Hospital Board which administers the Small-pox Hospital, Bagnall, situated in the Leek Rural District.

B. (1) *Tuberculosis.*

The Tuberculosis Authority for the area is the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Tuberculosis Committee, and sanatoria are provided by that Committee at Groundslow, Yarnfield, Himley, etc. All these institutions are situated outside the Borough. The total number of beds available during the year was 520.

(2) *Maternity.*

There is no special maternity hospital in the Borough, but cases of the acute complications of pregnancy, labour and the puerperium are admitted to the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary or to the Longton Cottage Hospital (voluntary hospitals situated in the adjoining City of Stoke-on-Trent) with both of which institutions the Council have an arrangement under which cases are admitted at a charge of three guineas per week.

(3) *Children.*

The North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary and the Cripples' Guild Hospital, Hartshill (both situated in the adjoining City of Stoke-on-Trent), are voluntary hospitals which admit children. General medical and surgical cases are dealt with at the Royal Infirmary, while the Cripples' Hospital deals particularly with orthopaedic cases.

(4) *Other Hospitals.*

The North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, the Longton Cottage Hospital and the Burslem Haywood Hospital, which are all situated in the adjoining City of Stoke-on-Trent, are general medical and surgical hospitals possessing the special departments usually found in such institutions.

St. John's Hospital, situated within the Borough, an institution taken over by the County Council under the Local Government Act, 1929, also provides for the admission of certain medical and surgical cases.

(5) *General Comments.*

The isolation hospital accommodation is adequate but the same cannot be said of the accommodation available for maternity and general cases. The Borough Council desire to make maternity beds available by themselves providing a Maternity Hospital, and have had the matter under discussion with the Minister of Health. Up to the present, however, the Minister has not felt justified in sanctioning the necessary loan and thus departing from the recommendation made by the Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity that new maternity accommodation should, where practicable, be associated with general hospitals. It is understood that the County Council intend to re-organise and enlarge St. John's Hospital, Keele Road, with the object of increasing the accommodation available for acute medical and surgical cases.

Legislation in Force.

ACTS.

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.

The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

The Public Health Act, 1925

Parts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

BYE-LAWS.

Relating to :—	Date of Adoption
Common Lodging Houses ...	1894
Slaughter Houses ...	1894
Offensive Trades ...	1894 and 1926
New Streets and Buildings ...	1926
Houses let in lodgings ...	1934

A private Bill containing a number of clauses dealing with public health matters, promoted by the Corporation, is at present before Parliament.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.

There are twenty midwives practising in the area, of whom all are trained and none is subsidised by the Local Authority.

A gynaecologist is available for consultation in cases of complicated pregnancy, etc. The matter of hospital accommodation has already been dealt with, as also has the subject of the ante-natal clinic.

**Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers,
Illegitimate Infants, etc.**

St. John's Hospital, an institution taken over by the County Council under the Local Government Act, 1929, provides for the reception of such cases.

Health Visitors.

Four of the nurses employed by the Council devote half of their time to maternity and child welfare work and one of them devotes the whole of her time to this service.

The visitation of children from birth till the attainment of school age is carried out by these nurses and during the year under review 9,496 visits were made in this connection.

Children Act, 1908, etc.

The arrangements for discharging the functions of the Local Authority under Part I of the Children Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, are in

conformity with the Memorandum L.G.A. 28, issued by the Ministry of Health on 26th November, 1929. The obligation of persons receiving children for reward under the circumstances dealt with in the Act and outlined in the Memorandum have been made known to the general public, a register is kept and the health visitors of the Local Authority act as Infant Life Protection Visitors.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Cases of orthopaedic disability are catered for by the Cripples' Guild Hospital, Hartshill, and the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary. The Education Committee have now an arrangement with the Cripples' Guild Hospital for the treatment of orthopaedic cases (both in-patients and out-patients) on an agreed scale of charges.

The health visitors undertake a certain amount of after-care and following up of cases dealt with by the Institutions named.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

SECTIONS C, D AND E, DEALING WITH THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, HOUSING AND INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD EMBRACE THE SUBMISSION OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Water Supply.

Practically the whole of the area is served by a piped supply on the constant system through the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board, the Borough Council being a Constituent Authority of that Board. A small hamlet at High Lane, Knutton, and a portion of the Red Street area are served by piped supplies taken from the Newcastle Rural District Council. A few out-lying isolated houses and farm premises still derive their water supplies from wells and springs, some of which have been under consideration during the year. In a few instances where water is not reasonably accessible, the houses involved have been scheduled and are being dealt with under the quinquennial slum clearance programme.

The Staffordshire Potteries Water Board supply is derived from deep wells in the new red sandstone, the pumping stations being situated at Hatton and Mill Meece. The water is pumped to a Service Reservoir at Hanchurch which serves the whole of the District ; a portion of the Borough served through a low pressure distribution system has the pressure broken by a small reservoir situated off Shelton New Road.

The following is an analysis of the water, kindly furnished by Mr. P. Wilkinson, Water Board Engineer :—

Analysis.

Total solid matter dried at 212° F.	14.56 grains per gallon
Free and Saline Ammonia...	... 0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	... 0.001
Nitric Nitrogen	... 0.24
Combine Chlorine	... 0.84
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	... 0.000
Colour through 2 feet	... very pale bluish tinge
Appearance	... clear

Hardness.

Hardness before boiling	... 7.95
After boiling...	... 5.40
Temporary	... 2.55

The water is of excellent quality for drinking, and domestic and industrial purposes.

The consumption in the district is at the rate of approximately 25 gallons per head per day.

Forty-three special visits have been made to houses regarding water supplies. Seventy-three dwelling-houses have been given improved facilities for the usage of water by the provision of 33 additional taps and 21 additional sinks, and water supply to sanitary accommodation at 40 houses.

Seven samples of water were submitted for chemical and bacteriological analysis, six of which were reported unfit. The scheme for supplying the Seabridge area with a piped service, completed at the end of last year, gave facilities for connecting the existing properties to the new supply and to new houses in course of erection.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The greater part of the district is sewered, one portion on the combined system, the remainder having a separate system for surface water purposes. An agreement reached with the City of Stoke-on-Trent enabled the sewage, previously flowing to four works, to be connected to the main trunk sewer for conveyance to the recently opened new works at Strongford Bridge, which lie to the South of the Borough. Some 6,160 yards of new sewers were laid during the year in the Cross Heath, Knutton, Hempstalls Lane and other housing areas. Portions of the area as yet unsewered include Audley Road (part), Springwood, High Lane, Black Bank and Ravensdale. Building developments at Clayton Village have increased considerably and a sewerage scheme covering this area was partly effected during the year.

One hundred and twenty-six inspections following complaints regarding sewers, street gullies, etc., were made, and 68 nuisances have been abated.

Rivers and Streams.

The Lyme Brook flows through the area from north to south and then, crossing the southern boundary, discharges into the River Trent.

The Fowlea Brook runs in a general direction of from north to south on the east side of the area forming for part of its course the eastern boundary of the district. After passing through the City of Stoke-on-Trent it also discharges into the River Trent.

The Lyme Brook, which previously was badly polluted by sewage effluents, has shown marked improvement, although it still receives some waste water from bye-product works and deposits of solid waste material. Powers to deal with this latter nuisance are contained in a private bill now before Parliament.

The Fowlea Brook receives the effluents from the Tunstall Sewage Works and from Basford Sewage Works and trade effluents from chemical works. This stream is of small size and receives considerable quantities of sewage and trade effluents. In time of drought, therefore, its cleansing capacity is considerably taxed. A scheme to eliminate the Basford Sewage Works is in hand which should improve matters considerably.

Twelve inspections regarding pollution were made during the year.

Sanitary Accommodation.

The following is a summary of the various types of sanitary convenience existing in the Borough at the end of the year :—

No. of houses and premises served by flushed water closets	...	...	...	...	...	17,054
No. of houses and premises served by waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	315
No. of houses and premises served by hand-flushed water closets	...	...	...	...	...	211
No. of houses and premises served by privies (330)	...					287
No. of houses and premises served by pail closets (120)						95
No. of houses and premises drained to cesspools (37)	...					45
No. of houses and premises served by standard dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	17,824
No. of houses and premises served by ashpits (62)	...					76

Particulars of conversions made during the year :—

Privies converted to water closets	...	...	...	3
Pail closets converted to water closets	...	...	...	6
Waste water closets converted to flushed water closets				12
Hand-flushed closets provided with cisterns	...	...	...	19
Privies converted to pail closets	...	...	...	1
Water closets and cesspools connected direct to public sewers	...	...	...	28
No. of dry ashpits abolished in favour of bins	...			23
Standard dustbins replaced or provided through the Local Authority	...	...	...	1,040

During the year 37 privies and pail closets were abolished.

The Council's forward policy of contributing financial assistance to owners who voluntarily convert waste water and hand-flushed closets has produced good results and the number now outstanding and capable of conversion is limited.

The Council's practice of providing free of charge dustbins in cases in which ashpits have been voluntarily abolished and of maintaining them has resulted almost in the elimination of ashpits serving private houses. This great reduction in ashpits, coupled with the bin replacement scheme, has produced a much more efficient and expeditious refuse removal service.

Public Cleansing.

(1) GENERAL.

The department controls the services connected with house and trade refuse collection and disposal, street cleansing, and public conveniences, which services are under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector who is the Cleansing Superintendent. These services are now based on a standardised system which enables proper costing records to be kept. The information derived from these records has been most valuable and has produced economy, greater efficiency, and increased ease in the planning of developments.

The continued expansion of building development coupled with slum clearance re-housing is being met by organised changes in the collection service from time to time without difficulty. The addition of new streets and the making up of private streets are, however, overtaking the already insufficient staff employed on street cleansing. It is hoped this service will be augmented in the near future.

During the year special consideration was given by the Cleansing Sub-Committee to the following features :—

1. A scheme to re-organise street scavenging which included increase of personnel and the collection from street orderlies by mechanical transport. The latter was adopted and put into operation through the purchase of a two-ton Bedford vehicle.
2. The provision of a new Cleansing Dépôt, including the necessary alterations and adaptation of the existing buildings and yard purchased in 1935.
3. Schemes for additional central public conveniences. Commencement of erection of premises in Pepper Street, Newcastle.

(2) SERVICES :

The following is a summary of the cleansing services performed during the year ending 31st March, 1937 :—

Refuse Collection :—

Number of houses and other premises receiving a refuse collection service ...	17,900
Number of premises receiving special trade refuse collection service	220

Average number of ashbins cleansed per week	...	...	...	...	...	18,780
Average number of privies cleansed per week						244
Average number of pail closets cleansed per week	...	...	...	...	...	108
Number of cesspools (37) cleansed during the year	...	...	...	...	...	155
Number of ashpits (emptied each month) still in use	...	...	...	...	...	62
Total refuse collected—Dry	...	...	...			15,166 tons
Wet	...	...	...			880 „
Weight collected per 1,000 population per day (Dry refuse)	...	...	...			13.2 cwts.

Refuse Disposal :—

Total refuse dealt with at the Disposal Plant or Tips (3) (excluding wet refuse)	...	16,250 tons
(Separation-incineration 10%, Tipped 90%)		

Street Cleansing :—

Number of Gullies	...	...	...	...	3,720
Total number of gully cleansings	...	...			23,403
Approximate mileage of streets cleansed daily	...	...	...	...	7.42 miles
Approximate mileage of streets cleansed three times weekly	...	...	...		2.58 „
Approximate mileage of streets cleansed twice weekly	...	...	...	...	3.83 „
Approximate mileage of streets cleansed once weekly	...	...	...	...	48.84 miles
Approximate mileage of streets cleansed less than once weekly	...	...	...		6.33 „
Total miles	..				69.00

The staff employed in these services is as follows :—

	Average		
Refuse collection	33
Refuse disposal	9
Street cleansing...	19
One foreman			

Public Conveniences :—

The following conveniences are maintained and supervised :—

Newcastle :	Marsh Street	(Males and Females)
„	George Street	(Males)
„	Smithfield Road	(Males)
Wolstanton :	High Street	(Males and Females)
Silverdale :	Crown Street	(Males)
Chesterton :	Victoria Street	(Males)
„	Dragon Square	(Males and Females)

(3) COSTS :

The summary of costs for the year ending 31st March, 1937, will be as follows :—

	Refuse Collection			Refuse Disposal		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Net cost (loans excluded) ...	6,258	0	0	1,798	0	0
Net cost per ton		8	2.9		2	2.5
Net cost per 1000 population	102	5	0	29	7	7
Net cost per 1000 premises	349	18	4	100	8	10

	Street Cleansing			Gully Cleansing			Snow Removal		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Net cost (loans excluded)	3,326	0	0	470	0	0	378	0	0
Net cost per 10,000 square yds. cleansed	6	6.3		—			—		
Net cost per 1,000 gullies cleansed ...	—			20	1	7	—		
Net cost per 1,000 popu- lation	54	6	6	7	13	8	6	3	6

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.
Record of Inspections and Results.

Inspections made with respect to :	No. of Inspections	Nuisances or defects reported	Re-visits made re abatement	Nuisances or defects remedied
Houses under P.H.A. ...	764	431	469	478
Overcrowding	1008	122	49	14
Water Supply	43	10	31	21
Drains—Inspected	288	183	192	151
Tested	29	12	12	15
Sewers, Street Gullies, &c. ...	109	73	17	68
Sanitary Accommodation ...	443	103	78	88
Ashes " ...	1084	1041	33	1040
Accumulations " ...	111	90	27	157
Animals " ...	15	13	6	4
Rivers Pollution Acts... ..	8	2	4	1
Rats and Mice Act " ...	51	37	15	23

Other visits :

Respecting Infectious Diseases	172
" Disinfection	114
" Schools 	14
" Public Buildings, Cinemas, etc.	6
Miscellaneous Visits 	175
Public Cleansing visits 	3,033
Interviews—owners and tradesmen ...	723

Notices served and complied with.

	Notices Served		Notices Complied with	
	Prelim.	Statutory	Prelim.	Statutory
Public Health Acts	307	5	257	4
P.H. (Smoke Abatement) Act	13	—	9	—
Housing Acts	187	240	193	185
Factory and Workshops ...	32	—	29	—
Cowsheds, Dairies, &c. ...	18	—	19	—
Bye-laws and Local Acts ...	21	—	21	—

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspection. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	89	18	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	135	7	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	77	8	—
Total	301	33	—

Defects found in Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found or brought forward. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness ...	19	19	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	20	19	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :—				
Insufficient	4	3	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective ...	7	6	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	2	1	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouses ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	54	50	—	—

Outworkers.

No return of outworkers was submitted.

Shop Sanitation.

The provisions of the Shop Act, 1934, in relation to ventilation, temperature control and sanitary accommodation are receiving attention. Unsatisfactory conditions discovered by the Shops Inspector (operating under the Watch Committee) and referred to this department were also given attention.

Number of sanitary visits made to shops	...	20
Number of nuisances or defects remedied	...	17

Registered Trades and Premises.

The existing records are incomplete in regard to the enlarged Borough and in consequence of pressure from other duties very little progress was made during the year in checking by visits the trade premises entered in the registers. These registers show a record of some 350 workshops.

Offensive Trades.

Number recorded as being within the Borough	...	66
Fish Fryers...	...	49
Fat Melters, etc.	...	4
Tripe Boilers	...	9
Rag and Bone dealers	...	4
Number of new offensive trades established	...	3
Fish Fryers	...	2
Tripe Boiler	...	1

The standard of many of the fish frying premises is low, especially of those established prior to adoption of the Bye-laws in 1926.

The consideration of applications made during the year has been governed by modern requirements and the terms of the Byelaws.

Number of inspections made...	...	62
Nuisances or defects found	...	41
Nuisances or defects remedied	...	49

Common Lodging Houses.

Number of registered houses in the Borough ... 5

During the year two registered houses were demolished in clearance areas. Of the five remaining houses only one is of reasonable standard. Two houses are situated in clearance areas, orders regarding which are now confirmed. Two houses were represented as individually unfit—one is to be closed and one reconditioned. Alternative provision for houses affected by the orders has been made by the erection of a municipal lodging house.

Number of inspections made (sanitary provisions) ... 21

(Regular inspection and control under the Bye-laws is undertaken by the Police).

Houses let in Lodgings.

In consequence of the number of applications made for Council houses from occupiers of this class of houses, special consideration was given to these premises. Formal notices were served to enforce the provisions of the Bye-laws adopted in 1934.

Notices served (affecting 9 houses)	9
Notices complied with	8
Premises approved for registration	5
Number of inspections made	86
Nuisances or defects found	83
Nuisances or defects remedied	110

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Investigations for the purpose of the Overcrowding Census gave opportunity for checking the position regarding caravan colonies situated in the area. Steps were taken to enforce improvement or removal where sanitary conditions were unsatisfactory.

Total number of vans, etc., existing at the end of the year	40
Number of vans, etc., in possession of owner-occupiers	34
Number of vans, etc., found to be overcrowded	21
Number of vans, etc., found unfit for habitation	10

Following the service of notices the Department was successful in obtaining removal or demolition of eleven structures, but difficulty of control arises in the cases of temporary sites.

Number of visits and inspections made	...	83
Nuisances or defects found	... ..	84
Nuisances or defects remedied	... ..	54

Smoke Abatement.

Action to control industrial atmospheric pollution in the area is difficult, especially in the case of certain areas affected by smoke from brick and tile works where, having regard to the type of kilns in use, the "best practicable means" clause is pleaded as a defence against action. The matter received attention and several new type kilns have been constructed. Observations were carried out on certain other chimneys and advice given where necessary, with some practical improvement.

Number of recorded observations made	...	102
Number of notices served (Section 1, Public Health Smoke Abatement Act)	... ..	4
Number of notices complied with	... ..	3
Visits to premises following observed nuisances		12

Schools.

Generally speaking, the hygienic conditions in the Council Schools are good and those obtaining in the recently erected schools are excellent. Means have been taken to effect sanitary improvements during the year at the following :—

- Albert Street Infants' School.
- Watlands Council Infants' School.
- Broadmeadow Senior Boys' School.
- Broadmeadow Senior Girls' School.
- Knutton Senior Mixed School.
- Clayton Council School.

SECTION D.

Housing.

General.

Housing Census :—

(1)	Total number of inhabited houses in the Borough	17,680
(2)	Estimated number of working class houses (separately occupied accommodation) ...	15,200
(3)	Number of new houses erected during the year :—	
	(a) by Private Enterprise ... 1019	1443
	(b) by Local Authority ... 424	

The principal work done under the Housing Act, 1936, can be summarised as follows :—

<i>Inspections :—</i>	Primary	Re-visits
(a) Part 1—Clearance Areas	403	484
do. other visits	472	25
(b) Part 2—Section 9—Reconditioning	176	941
Sections 11/12—Demolition or closure	135	218

Five Year Programme.

The general survey of housing conditions rendered necessary to supply the Minister of Health with the local programme of slum clearance has been given further consideration during the year and the measures to be taken have been amended in the light of up-to-date circumstances. The work involved in the representation and development of this programme is much greater than perhaps is realised, and has materially taxed the resources of the Department's normal staff. The programme as amended is as follows :—

- 1,126 houses in 73 clearance areas, involving 1,231 families and a population of 5,302.
- 241 individual unfit houses, involving 267 families and a population of 1,091.

During the year 18 clearance areas (containing 179 houses, 209 families and a population of 874 persons) have been represented to the local authority. Nine local Public Enquiries have been held in connection with opposed orders. Confirmation of four Compulsory Purchase Orders and thirteen Clearance Orders, involving 168 houses (185 families, 853 persons) have been received during the year.

In addition, representations to the local authority have been made in respect of 77 individual unfit houses.

Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 798

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 3098

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925... 432

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 714

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 256

(4) 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 ... 260

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 205

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a)—Proceedings under sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... 28

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by Owners	27
(b) by local authority in default of owners...	3
(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after services of formal notices :—	
(a) by Owners	4
(b) by local authority in default of owners...	nil
(c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	64
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	47
(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in anticipation of formal procedure	9
(4) Number of dwelling-houses closed on undertakings (not demolished)	9
(5) Number of dwelling-houses reconditioned on undertakings	4
(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
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil

4. Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding.

The Census put in hand in November, 1935, and completed in February, 1936, involved the assistance of addition temporary staff and an expenditure of £279. (For detailed particulars see Form C in Report for 1935).

The following is a summary of the conditions existing in the Borough :

Total number of houses in the Borough (1935 year end)	16,770
Number of dwellings of working class type investigated	14,363
(Separately occupied accommodation)	
Number of families found to be occupying overcrowded conditions	887
(Tenants 632, sub-tenants 255)	
Percentage overcrowding working-class houses	6.18%
Percentage overcrowding—relation to total houses in Borough	5.29%

These cases are made up as follows :—

(a) Occupying privately-owned houses ...	512	
(b) Occupying Council houses... ..	191	
(c) Occupying houses dealt with as part of Slum Clearance Programme—re-housing awaited	85	} 163
(d) Occupying houses included in Slum Clearance Programme—pending and prospective... ..	78	
(e) Occupying caravans (recognised as permanent)	21	
Total	887	

The position in relation to Wards is as follows :—

(excluding (c) Slum Clearance cases (422—overcrowded 85, uncrowded 337)—awaiting removal).

Ward	Uncrowded	Overcrowded	Total	Percentage Overcrowded—working class type
1	1,221	159	1,380	11.52
2	974	173	1,147	15.08
3	740	6	746	00.80
4	901	48	949	5.06
5	1,100	18	1,118	1.61
6	1,508	59	1,567	3.77
7	1,139	62	1,201	5.16
8	1,493	29	1,522	1.91
9	1,258	53	1,311	4.04
10	874	93	967	9.62
11	931	49	980	5.00
12	1,000	53	1,053	5.03
Totals	13,139	802	13,941	

During the year 19 additional cases of overcrowding came to light. Cases of overcrowding relieved numbered 96 (re-housed by local authority in slum clearance programme 82, re-housed privately 14). The number of cases still living under overcrowded conditions at the end of the year was 810. During the year the local authority deferred the erection of any houses for the specific relief of overcrowding in consequence of the extensive slum clearance programme still in hand.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

Number of Dairy Farms in the Borough ...	45
The number of milch cows kept approximate to	1065
Producers of graded milk	—
Number of Retail Purveyors of milk ...	228
(a) Resident	195
(b) Non-Resident	33

Several of these purveyors distribute both loose and bottled milk, but of the resident purveyors, 97 retail bottled milk only.

Number of Dairy Milkshops ... 38

Sixteen retail purveyors hold licences for the sale of graded milk. The following licences were issued during the year :—

Certified milk	...	4
Grade A (T.T.)	...	8
Grade A	...	5
Pasteurised	...	3

Two bottling licences were issued during the year :—

Grade A (T.T.)	...	1
Accredited	...	1

During the year 35 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination :—

Grade A (T.T.)	...	13
Accredited	...	1
Ungraded bottled	...	5
Loose milks	...	16

None of these were found to contain tubercle bacilli.

Five ungraded samples were found unsatisfactory and warning letters were sent.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number of existing Cowsheds reconstructed	...	9
Number of Cowsheds discontinued	...	1
Number of new Cowsheds erected	...	—
Number of new or improved Dairies	...	14

	Inspection.	Re-Inspection.	Nuisances or defects	
			Found	Abated
Cowsheds	89	11	57	53
Dairies and Milkshops	133	10	22	23
Ice Cream Premises	25	5	34	25

(b) Meat and other Foods.

There is no public slaughter-house in the Borough. The following table shows the number of private slaughter-houses in use in the area at the dates mentioned :—

		In 1920	In 1932	Dec. 1936
Registered	...	25	20	18
Licensed	...	6	8	10
		—	—	—
		31	28	28
		—	—	—

The number of men licensed to slaughter animals in accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, is 75.

On the whole, the slaughter-houses are maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition, but they possess the disadvantages which are inherent in private slaughterhouses. One registered slaughterhouse, included in a slum clearance area, the subject of an order which has been confirmed, was still in existence at the end of the year.

The standard of meat slaughtered and sold in the area is high. Shops deriving their meat supply from sources outside the Borough are frequently inspected and kept under special observation.

The following are the numbers of animals slaughtered and inspected at private slaughterhouses :—

Beasts.	Sheep	Pigs.	Calves.	Total.
1,984	6,635	3,858	547	13,024

The following tables, giving particulars as to the extent of disease and causes of condemnation, are interesting as showing the necessity for meat inspection by competent officers :—

Surrenders of Unsound Meat.

(SLAUGHTERHOUSES).

			Beasts.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.	Total.
Whole Carcases (including							
Organs)	...	...	11	1	5	—	17
Part Carcases	...	...	10	3	2	—	15
Heads	...	...	95	—	203	—	298
Lungs	...	...	116	3	170	—	289
Livers	...	...	83	20	117	—	220
Hearts	...	...	12	—	100	—	112
Kidneys	...	...	25	—	10	—	35
Spleens...	...	...	15	—	21	—	36
Stomachs	...	...	20	—	41	—	61
Omentum	...	...	13	—	9	—	22
Mesenteries (Intestines)	...	...	44	—	70	—	114
Udders	...	...	7	—	—	—	7

Causes of Condemnation and Weight (SLAUGHTERHOUSES).

Disease	Beasts. lbs.	Sheep. lbs.	Pigs. lbs.	Calves. lbs.	Total lbs.
Tuberculosis	14,316	—	4,970	—	19,286
Distomatosis	40	79	—	—	119
Parasitical Cysts	46	22	45	—	113
Cirrhosis	50	—	17	—	67
Abscesses	260	—	15	—	275
Angioma	82	—	—	—	82
Nephritis	—	—	1	—	1
Inflammatory Conditions	—	—	42	—	42
Bruising and Injury	—	95	—	—	95
Jaundice	—	—	114	—	114
	14,794	196	5,204	—	20,194

Tons cwts. qrs. lbs.
9 — 1 6

Surrenders of other Foods.

The following additional foodstuffs were condemned on account of contamination or decomposition :—

Tinned Foods	...	...	...	...	180 lbs.
Cooked Tongues	...	...	...	...	12 „
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	365 „
Turkey	...	...	...	...	12 „
Apples	...	...	...	...	960 „
Pears	...	...	...	...	20 „
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	264 „

= 16 cwts., - qrs., 21 lbs.

Considerable attention is given to the inspection of meat, fish and general foodstuffs in the Borough, and the market shops and stalls receive regular visits on market days. Conditions as to cleanliness were found to be fairly good on the whole, but it has been necessary on several occasions to call attention to the lack of cleanliness at some premises. It is unfortunate that legislation is long overdue for controlling the exposure of general foodstuffs to contamination. Reference is made elsewhere to the supervision of Offensive Trades, Milk and Dairies work, etc.

The following is a record of the inspections made :—

Meat and Food Inspections	...	...	2570
Private Slaughterhouses	...	...	2631
General Food Premises	...	...	33
Bakehouses	...	...	32
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	23
Market Inspections	...	...	130

(c) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

Total number of samples taken ... 179

Milk	...	...	107	Sago	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	13	Sulphur ointment	...	...	1
Cheshire Cheese	...	...	8	Baking powder	...	...	1
Lard	...	...	6	Fine oatmeal	...	...	1
Tea	...	...	4	Lemon cheese	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	3	Ground rice	...	...	1
Camphor	...	...	2	Ground ginger	...	...	1
Tapioca	...	...	2	Custard powder	...	...	1
Iodine ointment	...	...	2	Rice	...	...	1
Cream of tartar	...	...	2	Strawberry jam	...	...	1
Borax	...	...	2	Self-raising flour	...	...	1
Sugar	...	...	2	Arrowroot	...	...	1
Tinned Milk	...	...	2	Golden syrup	...	...	1
Tartaric acid	...	...	2	Flowers of sulphur	...	...	1
Dessicated coconut	...	...	2	Glauber salts	...	...	1
Seidlitz powders	...	...	1	Mustard	...	...	1
Boracic powder	...	...	1	Yellow mercuric oxide-			
Aspirin	...	...	1	Ointment	...	...	1
Cornflour	...	...	1				

Observations.

Three samples of milk were reported upon adversely by the Public Analyst.

Sample No.	Description	Result of Analysis	Remarks
30	Loose Milk	3.3% deficient in fat 2.3% deficient in solids —not fat	Retail producer warned
33	Loose Milk	6.6% deficient in fat	Vendor warned
175	Loose Milk	1.2% deficient in solids —not fat	Vendor warned

All the milk samples were reported by the Analyst to be free from preservatives and artificial colouring matter.

During the course of sampling, several opportunities arose for cautioning milk vendors regarding minor offences under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act and Orders made thereunder.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

General.

The great majority of cases of scarlatina and diphtheria notified in the Borough are isolated in the Newcastle Isolation Hospital or in the Bradwell Joint Isolation Hospital. In addition, cases of erysipelas, cerebro-spinal fever, and enteric fever, and, in special circumstances, cases of measles, whooping cough, chicken pox, etc., are admitted to both hospitals. The Newcastle Hospital caters for patients coming from the old Borough of Newcastle while the Bradwell Hospital (which is administered by the Bradwell Joint Isolation Hospital Committee, of which the Borough Council is a constituent Authority) receives cases from the portion of the Borough formerly known as the Wolstanton United Urban District, from the Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District and from the Kidsgrove Urban District.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1936.

Table 2 (page 36) shows the cases of infectious disease notified during the year.

Table 3 (page 37) shows the deaths from notifiable diseases during the year.

Tuberculosis.

Table 4 (page 38) shows the notifications of and the deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The following table shows particulars relating to cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified during the year :—

Cases			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
4	3	1	4	—	—	—

Table 2.—Cases of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1936.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED													Total cases removed to Hospital	Percentage of Cases removed to Hospital	
	AT ALL AGES		AT ALL AGES													
	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 years and over				
Small-pox																
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...					1	3	2	2	1		1			9	90	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)		1	1	1	1	9	4		2				19	100		
Scarlet Fever	107	1	2	9	9	6	44	20	10	4	2		99	92.52		
Puerperal Fever	1									1			1	100		
Puerperal Pyrexia	4									4			3	75		
Pneumonia	62	3	4	3	1	2	10	3	3	10	7	9	7	*	*	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4											1	25		
Pemphigus Neonatorum																
Encephalitis Lethargica																
Cerebro Spinal Fever	5	1			1				1	2				5	100	
Erysipelas	13								1	6	1	1	4	6	46.15	
Poliomyelitis	2					1	1							2	100	

Table No. 3.—
Deaths from Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1936.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS												
	AT ALL AGES	AT ALL AGES											
		Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 years and over
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Croup) ...													
Scarlet Fever ...	1			1									
Enteric Fever ... (including Paratyphoid)	1						1						
Puerperal Fever ...	3							1	2				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum													
Pneumonia ...	50	10	1			4			4	3	21	7	
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	1											
Erysipelas ...	1								1				

Table 4.—Notification of and Deaths from Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1		1						1
1 and under 5	1		5	2			1	2
5 and under 15	7	2	9	9	1		4	3
15 and under 25	8	8	2	1	4	7	2	
25 and under 35	8	5		2	3	5		
35 and under 45	7	6			4	2		
45 and under 55	5	2			4	1		
55 and under 65	2		2		1		2	
65 and upwards	1				1			
TOTAL	39	24	18	14	18	15	9	6

Of the 48 deaths from tuberculosis 34 or 70.83% had been notified, of the 33 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis 30 or 90.9% had been notified and of the 15 deaths from other forms of tuberculosis 4 or 26.66% had been notified. These figures are unsatisfactory and the attention of general practitioners in the district should again be drawn to their obligations in the matter of the notification of cases of tuberculosis.