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Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme

Annual Report

on the

Health of the Borough


for the Year 1946

by

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

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer.

A. J. BROWN, PRINTER.



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Annual Report

Health of the Borough

for the year 1875

ALFRED HOSKINS, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.S.E.,
Medical Officer to the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,

6 QUEEN STREET,

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME,

STAFFS.

1ST AUGUST, 1947.

*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 1946.

The birth-rate for the year (20.1 per thousand of the population) is above the average rate for the district in recent years and it is higher than the corresponding rate for England and Wales as a whole.

The death-rate (10.76) is close to the average rate for the Borough in recent years and it is slightly lower than the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

The infantile mortality rate (54.35 per thousand births) is higher than the average rate for the Borough in recent years and it is also higher than the corresponding rate for England and Wales as a whole.

I desire to thank the members of the Committee for the keen support which they have given me throughout the year and to express my special appreciation of the manner in which all the members of the staff have whole-heartedly 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 1946 is 66,810.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1946 was 19,075.

Rateable Value, etc.

The rateable value of the Borough is £306,904, and one penny rate in the £ (General Rate) produces £1,197 exclusive of voids, etc.

Day Nurseries.

There are two day nurseries in the Borough, one situated at Liverpool Road, Cross Heath and the other at Crown Street, Silverdale. Each of these nurseries has accommodation for 40 children under five years of age, 15 under two years of age and 25 two and under five years.

Social Conditions—Unemployment.

With regard to the extent of unemployment, I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information :—

	1946 Average Weekly Figures.	% of Insured Pop. (Est. at 20,000)
Wholly unemployed ..	1,624	8.12
Temp. unemployed ..	15	.075

The percentage unemployment figure for previous years was as follows :—3.6% for 1945, 1.7% for 1944, .9% for 1943, .91% for 1942, 1.3% for 1941, 6.6% for 1940, 19.6% for 1939, 20% for 1938, 17% for 1937, 20% for 1936, 23% for 1935, 22% for 1934, 25% for 1933, and 37% for 1932.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

		Total	Male	Female	Rate	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	1268	671	597	20.1	{ per 1000 estimated population
	{ Illegitimate	75	44	31		
Stillbirths	... ..	46	24	22	33.12	{ per 1000 total live and still births
Deaths	... ..	719	368	351	10.76	{ per 1000 estimated population

Deaths and death-rates from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 total live & still births
Puerperal and Post-abortive sepsis	—	—
Other maternal causes	... 1	.69
Total	... 1	.69

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

Total	... ..	54.35
Legitimate	... ..	53.63
Illegitimate...	... ..	66.66
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..	97
Deaths from measles (all ages)	... ..	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	... ..	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		4

Table 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH						Males	Females
ALL CAUSES						368	351
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers					—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever					—	1
3.	Scarlet fever					—	—
4.	Whooping Cough					—	1
5.	Diphtheria					1	1
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system					18	11
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis... ..					2	5
8.	Syphilitic diseases					2	1
9.	Influenza					4	8
10.	Measles					—	—
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis					—	—
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis					—	—
13.	Cancer of buc : cav : and oesoph : (M.), Uterus (F)					8	4
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum					10	11
15.	Cancer of breast					—	9
16.	Cancer of all other sites					30	25
17.	Diabetes					2	8
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions					35	50
19.	Heart disease					108	95
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system					2	9
21.	Bronchitis					27	12
22.	Pneumonia					22	10
23.	Other respiratory diseases					5	—
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum					3	3
25.	Diarrhoea—under 2 years					3	1
26.	Appendicitis					—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases					—	6
28.	Nephritis					8	12
29.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis					—	—
30.	Other maternal causes					—	1
31.	Premature birth					13	7
32.	Congenital malformation, birth injury, in- fant diseases					14	15
33.	Suicide					6	1
34.	Road traffic accidents					7	2
35.	Other violent causes					7	6
36.	All other causes					31	36

Premature Infants.

All hospitals in which infants belonging to the Borough are likely to be born have been requested to notify the Borough Health Office of the discharge to an address in the Borough of any infant prematurely born in the institution.

The health visitors have been instructed to give particular attention to premature infants and to take measures as far as is practicable to secure a separate bedroom for the mother and infant and to ensure the provision of adequate and suitable equipment in the home. The services of a home help are available to suitable cases.

Unmarried Expectant Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

The Council have entered into an arrangement, through the Staffordshire County Council, with the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare with the object of carrying out the recommendations contained in Circular No. 2866 of the Ministry of Health, dated 1st October, 1943. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) Medical.

1. The Medical Officer of Health, who is also School Medical Officer.
2. The Council have lately appointed a whole-time deputy Medical Officer of Health who, it is hoped, will take up his duties in the Autumn of 1947.
3. Five part-time Medical Officers who attend the maternity and child welfare centres and Day Nurseries, and a part-time Medical Officer who attends at the ante-natal and post-natal clinics.

(b) Others.

1. The Chief Sanitary Inspector, who is also Cleansing Superintendent.
2. The 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 the inspection of meats and other foods.

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

4. Six nurses, all whole-time. Two of these nurses devote the whole of their 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. Six clerks.

Laboratory Facilities.

Specimens under the Food and Drugs Acts, and the Milk and Cream Regulations are dealt with by Mr. A. Houlbrooke, 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 Newcastle-under-Lyme Joint Hospital Board, of which the Corporation is a constituent authority, have three motor ambulances for the removal of cases of infectious disease. For the removal of non-infectious cases there are available two motor ambulances, one operated by the police and the other by the health department. An order has been placed for a second ambulance for the health department.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

A. General.

There are four District Nursing Associations working in the Borough, one in the southern portion of the area (old Newcastle) employing three nurses, one in Wolstanton employing one nurse, one in Chesterton employing one nurse, and one in Silverdale also employing one nurse.

B. *For Infectious Diseases.*

An arrangement has been made between the Council and the District Nursing Associations for the home nursing of children suffering from complicated measles. The fee paid by the Council to the Associations 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 and post-natal centre is held at 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 and Knutton centres each Thursday, the Ellison Street centre each Wednesday, and the Silverdale centre each Tuesday. The ante-natal centre is open each Monday and Friday afternoon. The post natal centre is in operation on the second and fourth Tuesday in each month.

The Council have acquired No. 9 King Street, Newcastle, for use as a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and, the necessary adaptations being likely to be completed in the autumn of this year, the premises will probably be occupied towards the end of the year. When this occupation takes effect usage will cease of the Marsh Street Centre and No. 14 King Street. Schemes are being got out by the Borough Surveyor for the rehabilitation and improvement of the clinics at Wolstanton, Chesterton and Silverdale.

(b) *School Clinics.*

There are five School Clinics in the Borough, four of which are dealt with in the preceding paragraph and the fifth is situated at Friarswood House, Newcastle, and is used only for school clinic purposes.

(c) *Tuberculosis.*

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

(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-under-Lyme Joint Hospital Board, of which the Borough Council is a constituent authority, came into being on October 1st, 1938, and subsequently took over the Newcastle and Bradwell Isolation Hospitals. The Joint Hospital Board is formed of representatives from six of the local authorities in North Staffordshire and is in possession of hospitals at Newcastle, Bradwell, Leek and Cheadle, containing 102 beds.

(2) *Smallpox.*

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

B. (1) *Tuberculosis.*

The Tuberculosis Authority for the area is the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Board for Tuberculosis, and sanatoria are provided by that Board at Groundslow, Yarnfield, Himley, etc. All these institutions are situated outside the Borough.

(2) *Maternity.*

The Council recently acquired premises at Chesterton for the provision of a maternity home and alterations and extensions to the premises are nearing completion.

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.

(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.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.

There are in the Borough nine midwives employed by the Staffordshire County Nursing Association under the Midwives' Act, 1936, by arrangement with the Staffordshire County Council. In addition there are five midwives in the Borough in private practice.

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.

Health Visitors.

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

The visitation of children from birth to the age of five years is carried out by these nurses and during the year under review 10,109 visits were made in this connection.

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, is served by piped supplies taken from the Newcastle Rural District Council. Twenty-two out-lying isolated houses and farm premises derive their water supplies from wells and springs, and in fifteen instances where water is not reasonably accessible, the houses involved have been scheduled. The supply to the portion of Red Street, which was stated in my annual report for 1944 to be unsatisfactory in the matter of pressure, was in January, 1946, discontinued and replaced by a supply from the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board.

The Staffordshire Potteries Water Board's supply is derived from deep wells in the new red sandstone and for domestic purposes is stated to be in the region of 25 gallons per head per day. At intervals during recent years appeals have been made by the Board through the Press, warning the public that the supply has been curtailed, and asking them to exercise economy in the use of water. In particular, a statement made by the Engineer at a meeting of the Board held on July 25th, 1944, and reported in the *Staffordshire Evening Sentinel* on July 26th, 1944, contained the following :—

“The yields from all the Board's sources have dropped—at the principal station to the extent of at least half-a-million gallons a day . . . the water level in the wells is now at its lowest since the station was constructed over 50 years ago. . . . So far, a supply for all necessary purposes has been provided, but there is no certainty that a full supply can be maintained throughout the remaining summer months. The supply is now only maintained by drawing on the water stored in the service reservoirs. As this storage is limited, the present rate of consumption is endangering the supply.”

During the summer of 1946 supplies to some areas in Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle were cut off during night hours (approximately midnight to 6 a.m.) in order to avoid waste and conserve the supply. In a statement to the *Staffordshire Evening Sentinel* and reported in that paper on July 12th, 1946, the Engineer and Manager of the Water Board stated that preliminary work had begun on the Peckforton scheme, that from the works embraced in that scheme an additional supply of water would be available within twelve months and that this additional supply would make the water at the disposal of the Board enough to remove any serious shortage of water.

With regard to the quality of the water supplied by the Board, it is not plumbo-solvent, recent chemical and bacteriological examinations show that it is satisfactory, and it receives chloramine treatment.

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. Portions of the area as yet unsewered include (a) Audley Road (part) and Springwood, (b) High Lane and Black Bank, (c) Ravensdale and (d) Seabridge. In the Wedgwood Street and Talke Road area of Red Street there is a sewer for all purposes, but the disposal of the sewage is unsatisfactory. I understand that a scheme, involving the laying of a new sewer, to remedy this state of affairs, has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Six thousand five hundred and ninety-five lineal yards of new sewers were laid during the year. Three hundred and twenty-nine inspections following complaints regarding sewers, street gullies, etc. were made, and fifty-seven nuisances in connection therewith were abated.

Rivers and Streams.

The Lyme Brook flows through the area from north to south and then, having crossed the southern boundary, discharges into the River Trent. This brook, which previously was much polluted, has shown marked improvement in recent years although it still receives some waste water notably from two collieries. Recently there have been some complaints of flooding by the Lyme Brook and its tributaries believed to be due to blocking consequent upon the accumulation of silt, but I understand that methods for dealing with this condition of affairs are under consideration by the Council.

The Fowlea Brook runs in a general direction 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. This brook receives trade waste from tributary streams entering it from the City, from the Wolstanton Colliery and the Staffordshire Chemical Company Works at Ravensdale and the effluent from the Burslem and Tunstall Sewage Works. This stream is considerably polluted.

Five inspections regarding pollution of the two brooks 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 served by flushed water closets	...	18,539
No. of houses served by waste water closets	...	239
No. of houses served by hand-flushed water closets		100
No. of houses and premises served by privies (162)	...	140
No. of houses and premises served by pail closets (97)		72
No. of houses and premises served by standard dustbins	... ..	19,300
No. of houses and premises served by ashpits (14)	...	16

Particulars of conversions made during the year :—

Privies converted to water closets	... ..	—
Pail closets converted to water closets	... ..	4
Waste water closets converted to flushed water closets		11
Hand-flushed closets provided with cisterns	...	1
Privies converted to pail closets	... ..	—
Water closets and cesspools connected direct to public sewers	... ..	—
New or additional water closets provided	... ..	3
No. of dry ashpits abolished in favour of bins...	...	—
Standard dustbins replaced or provided through the Local Authority	... ..	1,177

Public Cleansing.

SERVICES :

The following is a summary of the cleansing services performed during the year ending 31st March, 1947 :—

Refuse Collection :—

Number of houses and other premises receiving regular refuse collection service	19,325
Number of premises receiving special trade refuse collection service	250
Average number of ashbins cleansed per week	10,854
The system of alternate weekly refuse and salvage collections commenced in 1940 still operates).	
Average number of privies cleansed per week	157
Average number of pail closets cleansed per week	66
Number of cesspools cleansed during the year (excluding work undertaken in the Newcastle Rural District area)	65
Number of ashpits (emptied) still in use ...	14
Total refuse collected—Dry (estimated) ...	11,744 tons
Salvage „ ...	1,620 „
Wet „ ...	850 „
Weight collected per 1,000 population per day (Dry refuse and salvage)	12.73 cwts.

Refuse Disposal :—

Total estimated refuse dealt with at the Disposal Plant or Tips (excluding wet refuse, salvage or covering material) ...	12,350 tons
(Incineration 4%, Tipped 83%, Salvage 13%)	

Street Cleansing :—

Number of Gullies	5,103
Total number of gully cleansings	15,778
Approximate mileage of streets cleansed daily (including Sunday) ...	1.25 miles
Approximate mileage of streets cleansed three times weekly	4.25 „

Approximate mileage of streets cleansed twice weekly	8.50 miles
Approximate mileage of streets cleansed once weekly	48.50 „
Approximate mileage of streets cleansed less than once weekly	20.73 „
Total miles ...	<u>83 23 „</u>

Trunk Road, 4.36 miles. County Roads, 30.68 miles. District Roads, 48.19 miles. Unadopted Roads, 23.37 miles.

The staff employed in these services is as follows :—

	Average
Refuse collection and salvage ...	52
Refuse disposal	5
Street cleansing... ..	22

In addition to the above there is one cleansing foreman and a storekeeper (all services) and a foreman mechanic and two mechanics for vehicle maintenance.

COSTS :

It is not yet possible to give detailed costs for the various services. The following figures show the estimated total costs for all services, with salvage income and expenditure shown separately.

ALL SERVICES		SALVAGE	
Expenditure ...	£25,926	Income ...	£6,886
Income ...	£8,743	Expenditure ...	£4,889
Net Expenditure ...	<u>£17,183</u>	Net income ...	<u>£1,997</u>

Public Conveniences :—

The following conveniences are maintained and supervised :—

Newcastle :	Pepper Street	(Males and Females)
„	Marsh Street	(Males and Females)
„	Smithfield	Urinal
„	Hassell Street	„
„	Stubbs Street	„
„	Liverpool Road	„
Wolstanton :	High Street	(Males and Females)
„	Jubilee Road	Urinal
Silverdale :	Crown Street	(Males)
Chesterton :	Victoria Street	(Males)
„	Dragon Square	(Males and Females)

Since George Street Convenience was abolished in the autumn of 1938 for road improvement purposes, a temporary

agreement for the public of this vicinity to use facilities of an adjoining Billiard Hall have been instituted.

Staff employed : Males (full-time) ... 2
 „ (part-time) ... 5
 Females (full-time) 4
 „ (part-time) 2

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
P.H.A.—Housing	380	1284	1167	680
Other Nuisances	281	239	534	207
Water Supply	27	11	14	10
Overcrowding	228	3	4	—
Drains—Inspected	241	93	408	97
Tested	88	11	23	10
Sewers, Street Gullies, &c. ..	329	54	54	57
Sanitary Accommodation ..	60	18	30	27
Ashes Accommodation ..	31	894	3	1177
Accumulations	62	16	17	12
Swine, Fowl or other Animals	38	10	9	4
Rivers Pollutions Acts ..	3	3	2	3
Rats and Mice Act	529	20	1135	20
(Visits by Inspectors)				

Other visits :

Respecting Infectious Diseases ... 499
 „ Verminous Conditions ... 260
 „ Disinfection ... 230
 „ Schools, Public Buildings,
 Cinemas, etc. ... 37
 Miscellaneous Visits ... 1,015
 Interviews—owners and tradesmen ... 720

Notices served and complied with.

	Notices Served		Notices Complied with	
	Prelim.	Statutory	Prelim.	Statutory
P.H.A.—Housing Defects ..	295	30	157	17
Nuisances	158	—	132	12
Smoke Nuisance	2	—	2	—
Housing Acts	—	—	—	—
Factory and Workshops ..	16	—	12	—
Cowsheds, Dairies, &c. ..	16	—	15	—
Byelaws and Local Acts ..	25	—	18	—
Shops Act	2	—	2	—

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ..	65	10	—
Factories without mechanical power	24	6	—
Other Premises (not including Outworkers Premises)	77	—	—
Total ..	166	16	—

Defects found.

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)	
Want of cleanliness ..	7	9	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	3	2	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floor	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Convenience—				
Insufficient	7	4	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	5	4	—	—
Not separate for sexes ..	1	1	—	—
Other offences	3	3	—	—
	27	24	—	—

Premises of outworkers visited (wearing apparel) ... 4

Rodent Control.

A full-time operator is employed to undertake treatment on all private properties and to give advice generally following receipt of complaint. In addition systematic treatment is carried out in connection with the 50 annual contracts with traders affecting business premises.

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out, one during May and the second in December, with an operating squad consisting of an inspector, a rodent operator and two corporation sewer men, and this unit functioned successfully in the speedy treatment of manholes by using a 30-cwt. van. A total of 1,122 sewer manholes were inspected and of these 1,070 were baited and 239 showed pre-bait takes. According to the Ministry of Food formula this shows that the "intensity of infestation" is small and the "extent of infestation" limited. In connection with L.A. Circular N.S. 12 Private Dwellings—Special Scheme, a systematic survey of the whole of the Borough with treatment where necessary, was commenced during October but not completed by the end of the year.

Records show the following work undertaken :—

Rat complaints received	..	..	106
Visits made by operator	..	..	3,813
Premises treated	..	..	175
Sewers and water-courses treated	..	..	410

Number of rats destroyed :—

(a) Estimated by baits	..	2,693	} Total
(b) Caught and trapped	...	667	
			3,360

The gross expenditure of rodent control during the year was £379.

Shop Sanitation.

Number of sanitary visits made to shops	...	22
Number of nuisances or defects found	...	8
Number of nuisances or defects remedied	...	9

Offensive Trades.

Number recorded as being within the Borough		21
Fat Melters, etc.	...	7
Tripe Boilers	...	10
Rag and Bone Dealers		4

Number of new offensive trades established	...	—
Number of inspections made	...	29
Nuisances or defects found	...	3
Nuisances or defects remedied	...	3

Common Lodging Houses.

Number of registered houses in use at the end of the year ... 2

These provide the following accommodation :—

13 Lower Street, Newcastle ...	...	43 beds (males)
71/73 Lower Street, Newcastle ...	{	15 beds (males)
		6 beds (females)

Number of inspections made... ... 17

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Notices served 1

Notices complied with 1

Premises approved for registration —

Number of inspections made ... 12

Nuisances or defects found ... 3

Nuisances or defects remedied 4

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Total number of semi-permanent vans,
etc. existing at the end of the year 8

Number of vans, etc., in possession of
owner-occupiers 8

Number of vans, etc., known to be over-
crowded 2

Number of vans, etc., unfit for
habitation 4

Number of visits and inspections made 32

Nuisances or defects found 5

Nuisances or defects remedied 4

Smoke Abatement.

Number of recorded observations made... 21

Number of notices served (Section 1,
Public Health Smoke Abatement Act) 2

Number of notices complied with ... 2

Premises visited following observations 5

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Particulars of action taken is as follows :—

COUNCIL HOUSES				PRIVATE HOUSES			
Inspection	Infested	De-infested		Inspection	Infested	De-infested	
		HCN	Other Insecticides			HCN	Other Insecticides
38	2	—	2	222	3	—	3

SECTION D.

Housing.

General.

Housing Census :—

- (1) Total number of inhabited houses in the
Borough 19,075
- (2) Number of new houses erected during the
year :
- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|
| (a) by Private Enterprise | ... | ... | 83 | } | 216 |
| (b) by Local Authority | ... | ... | 33 | | |
| (c) by Government temporary bungalows | ... | ... | 100 | | |

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	... ..	—	19
	do.	other visits	—	36
(b)	Part 2—Section 9—Reconditioning		—	—
	Sections 11/12—Demolition or closure	... ..	12	7

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)	378
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	380
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925... ..	2
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(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	295

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	157
--	-----

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... ..	nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	

(a) by Owners nil

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners nil

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ..	30
--	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) by Owners 17

(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 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 5

(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in anticipation of formal procedure 2

(4) Number of dwelling-houses closed on undertakings (not demolished) nil

(5) Number of dwelling-houses reconditioned on undertakings nil

(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 nil

(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, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

The estimated number of cases recorded as legally overcrowded at the end of the year was 359*

*In the absence of a census it is impossible accurately to assess the present position with regard to overcrowding, particularly as population movement during the past seven years is known to have been considerable. No general action is possible, but special cases brought to notice are re-housed as opportunity arises.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply.

Number of Dairy Farms in the Borough ...	42
The number of milch cows kept approximate to	831
Producers of graded milk	8
Number of Retail Purveyors of milk ...	282
(a) Resident	244
(b) Non-Resident	38

Several of these purveyors distribute both loose and bottled milk, but of the resident purveyors, 204 retail bottled milk only.

Number of Dairy Milkshops	31
----------------------------------	----

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

Tuberculin Tested...	8
Accredited	2
Pasteurised	5

Five bottling licences were issued during the year :—

Tuberculin Tested...	2
Accredited	1
Pasteurised	2

One premises is licensed as a pasteurising plant and a further premises was in course of erection at the end of the year.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number of existing Cowsheds reconstructed ...	—
Number of Cowsheds discontinued	—
Number of new Cowsheds erected	—
Number of new or improved Dairies	4

	Inspections.	Re-Inspections.	Nuisances or defects	
			Found	Abated
Cowsheds	126	9	20	16
Dairies and Milkshops ...	206	13	15	17
Ice Cream Premises	202	43	45	12

No. of Ice Cream premises registered under Private Act (for sale only, 31)	64
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(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**

No. of butchers' shops registered under Private Act (including Market Stalls)	86
No. of Preserved Food preparing premises regis- tered (including Fish Fryers, 41)	90

There is no public slaughter-house in the Borough. There are 10 registered and 9 licensed slaughter-houses in the Borough, the use of which has been suspended since outbreak of the war except for an occasional use under licence.

The number of men licensed to slaughter animals in accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, is 37.

**Carcases Inspected and Proportion Condemned for
Tuberculosis and Other Conditions.**

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected ..	6	85	24	140	113
Surrenders of unsound Meat :	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Diseases other than Tuber- culosis	199	—	—	—	22
Tuberculosis only	—	—	—	—	578
Total weight	199	—	—	—	600

Surrenders of Other Food.

	lbs.
Bacon and Fresh Meat	596
Fish	227
Butter, Margarine and Cooking Fats	192
Cheese	86
Bread	112
Porridge Oats	720
Biscuits and Cake	96
Packet Powders	170
Dried Harricot Beans	147
Rice	30
Mustard	36
Pickles and Sauces	31
Preserves	139

	lbs.
Dried Fruits	251
Apples	1,000
Jellies and Sweets	17
Cocoa	8
Eggs	51½
Tinned Meat	697
Tinned Fish	793
Tinned Vegetables	1,004
Tinned Milk	1,383
Tinned Soup	1,127
Tinned Fruit	330
Tinned Puddings	15

The following is a record of the inspections made :—

Meat and food inspections	283
Private slaughterhouses	135
General food premises	367
Bakehouses	71
Food preparing premises	239
Market inspections	84

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Total number of samples taken .. 132

Milk	92	Oatmeal	1
Self-Raising Flour	2	White Precipitate Ointment	1
Baking Powder	2	Zinc and Caster Oil Ointment	1
Powdered Gelatine	2	Malt Vinegar	1
Saccharin	2	Salmon and Shrimp Paste	1
Cocoa	2	Ground Ginger	1
Boracic Ointment	2	Bicarbonate of Soda	1
Sausages	2	Borax	1
Glauber Salts	2	Parrish's Food	1
White Pepper	1	Indian Bark	1
Soyghetti	1	Friars Balsam	1
Coffee and Chicory	1	Flowers of Sulphur	1
Vegetable Soup	1	Malted Soya Cream	1
Mustard	1	Fullers Earth Cream	1
Lemon Squash	1	Glycerine	1
Chef Sauce	1	Epsom Salts	1
		Sulphur and Yeast Tablets	1

Observations.

Six samples were adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst.

Sample No.	Description	Result of Analysis	Remarks
328	Milk	3% deficient in fat. 1.8% deficient solids not fat	Retailer warned. Subsequent samples satisfactory
350	Milk	4% deficient in fat	Retailer warned as to adequately blending
372	Milk	22% deficient in fat	Retailer fined £4 with £6 6s. od. costs
394	Glauber Salts (Informal)	Hydrated Sodium Sulphate—129%	Vendor notified. Subsequent formal sample satisfactory
396	Milk	15% deficient in fat	Subsequent samples satisfactory. Warn- ing letter to producer as to adequately blending
410	Sausages (Informal)	9% deficient in meat content	Subsequent formal samples satisfactory. Vendor notified

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

Number of approved premises—Wholesale
dealers in margarine 5

SECTION F.

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

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 1946, a total of 955 children (736 under five and 219 five years and over) were immunised against diphtheria.

Scabies.

The measures required to be taken under the Statutory Rule and Order No. 1724 of 1941 and Circular 2517 of the Ministry of Health of 14th November, 1941, are being carried out. The examination of contacts and the treatment of cases is undertaken at the Public Cleansing Station, Froghall, Newcastle. The treatment provided is in conformity with the Ministry of Health memorandum on the subject dated 30th April, 1942. During the year 436 cases of scabies were treated.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
7	5	2	6	—	—	1

The one death shown above as being due to ophthalmia neonatorum was certified on the death certificate as follows:-

i.a. acute gastro enteritis.

ii. ophthalmia neonatorum.

Steps Taken to Improve the General Standard of Cleanliness.

Every endeavour has been made to carry out the suggestions contained in Circular 2,831, of 2nd July, 1943. In particular, the Health Visitors have been instructed to give special attention to children between the ages of two and five years, and to concentrate largely in their visiting on the homes which they know to be the least satisfactory. As four of the Corporation Health Visitors are also School Nurses, a high degree of personal knowledge of the children and their homes is attained.

Table 2.—Cases of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1946.
(Civilians only).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED													Total cases removed to Hospital	Percentage of Cases removed to Hospital
	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	8	100.	
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	..	19	90.45	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1	1	7	43	12	5	2	..	..	172	88.66	
Scarlet Fever	2	13	10	15	94	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	50.	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	2	1	..	1	..	8	5	5	1	*	..	
Pneumonia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	28.57
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pemphigus Neonatorum	
Encephalitis Lethargica	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	..	..	..	1	3	2	100.	
Erysipelas	*	..	
Poliomyelitis	*	..	
Measles..	1	4	6	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	*	..
Whooping Cough	6	10	14	14	8	30	1	..	..	..	..	..	*	..
Dysentery	

*Information not available.

Table 3.—Deaths from Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1946.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS												
	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 Membranous Croup) ...	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ... (including Paratyphoid)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal and post- abortive sepsis ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia ...	32	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	6	10
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ...	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Table 4.—Notification of and Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1946.

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	1	4	..	..	..	..	2
5 and under 15	2	3	5	1	1	..	..	1
15 and under 25	13	9	1	3	1	5	..	..
25 and under 35	10	8	1	2	3	3	1	..
35 and under 45	8	3	1	..	1	1	..	..
45 and under 55	6	1	..	..	5	..	..	..
55 and under 65	4	..	..	1	5	2	..	1
65 and upwards	3	..	..	..	2	..	1	..
TOTAL	47	25	12	8	18	11	2	5

Of the 36 deaths from tuberculosis, 27 or 75% had been notified. Of the 29 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, 25 or 86.21% had been notified and of the 7 deaths from other forms of tuberculosis 2 or 28.57% had been notified.

