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Contributors

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Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme

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Annual Report

ON THE

Health of the Borough

for the Year 1949

BY

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

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer.





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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,
6, QUEEN STREET,
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME,
STAFFS.

1st JUNE, 1950.

*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 1949. The changes in the organisation of the health services in the Borough, consequent upon the coming into force on 5th July, 1948 of the National Health Service Act, were detailed in the preliminary letter of my Annual Report for the year 1948.

The birth-rate for the year (16.98 per thousand of the population) is below the average rate for the district in recent years but it is higher than the corresponding rate for England and Wales as a whole.

The death-rate (10.23 per thousand of the population) is slightly below the average rate for the Borough in recent years and it is lower than the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

The infantile mortality rate (36.20 per thousand live births) is below the average rate for the Borough in recent years but it is higher than the corresponding rate for England and Wales as a whole.

I desire to thank the members of the Council for the keen support which they have given me throughout the thirty years that I have been in their service and to express my appreciation of the manner in which all the members of the staff have wholeheartedly 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 1949 is 69,960.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1949 was 19,852.

Rateable Value, etc.

The rateable value of the Borough is £320,446 and one penny rate in the £ (General Rate) produces £1,216.

Social Conditions—Unemployment.

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

| | Average weekly figures | Percentage of insured Population (est. at 25,000) |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Wholly unemployed ... | 420 | 1.68 |
| Temporarily unemployed ... | 8 | .032 |

The percentage unemployment figure for previous years was as follows :—

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|-------|------|-----|--------|
| 1932 | ... | 37% | 1940 | ... | 6.6% |
| 1933 | ... | 25% | 1941 | ... | 1.3% |
| 1934 | ... | 22% | 1942 | ... | .91% |
| 1935 | ... | 23% | 1943 | ... | .9% |
| 1936 | ... | 20% | 1944 | ... | 1.7% |
| 1937 | ... | 17% | 1945 | ... | 3.6% |
| 1938 | ... | 20% | 1946 | ... | 8.195% |
| 1939 | ... | 19.6% | 1947 | ... | 5.775% |
| | | | 1948 | ... | 2.108% |

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

| | | Total | Male | Female | Rate | |
|-------------|---------------|-------|------|--------|-------|---|
| Live— | —Legitimate | 1138 | 599 | 539 | 16.98 | { per 1,000 estimated population |
| Births— | —Illegitimate | 50 | 33 | 17 | | |
| Stillbirths | ... .. | 39 | 20 | 19 | 31.78 | { per 1,000 total live and still births |
| Deaths | ... .. | 716 | 356 | 360 | 10.23 | { per 1,000 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 | | — |
| Total | | — |

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

| | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| Total | ... .. | 36.20 |
| Legitimate | ... .. | 36.03 |
| Illegitimate | ... .. | 40.00 |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | ... .. | 129 |
| Deaths from measles (all ages) | ... .. | — |
| Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) | ... .. | 2 |
| Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | ... .. | 6 |

Table 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

| CAUSES OF DEATH | | | | | | Males | Females |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------|
| ALL CAUSES | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 356 | 360 |
| 1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers | ... | | | | ... | — | — |
| 2. Cerebro-spinal fever | | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 3. Scarlet fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 4. Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 5. Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 6. Tuberculosis and respiratory system | ... | | | | ... | 18 | 14 |
| 7. Other forms of tuberculosis | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| 8. Syphilitic diseases | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| 9. Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| 10. Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 11. Acute Poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis | | | | | ... | — | — |
| 12. Acute inf. encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 13. Cancer of buc : cav : and oesoph : (M.) | | | | | ... | | |
| Uterus (F.) | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 4 |
| 14. Cancer of Stomach and duodenum | ... | | | | ... | 17 | 17 |
| 15. Cancer of breast | ... | | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 12 |
| 16. Cancer of all other sites | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 | 32 |
| 17. Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 |
| 18. Intracranial vascular lesions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 | 54 |
| 19. Heart disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 108 | 97 |
| 20. Other diseases of circulatory system | ... | | | | ... | 14 | 17 |
| 21. Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 | 11 |
| 22. Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 11 |
| 23. Other respiratory diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 |
| 24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | ... | | | | ... | 6 | 1 |
| 25. Diarrhoea—under 2 years | | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 6 |
| 26. Appendicitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| 27. Other digestive diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 6 |
| 28. Nephritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 12 |
| 29. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis | ... | | | | ... | — | — |
| 30. Other maternal causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 31. Premature birth | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 7 |
| 32. Congenital malformation, birth injury, infant diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 | 3 |
| 33. Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 |
| 34. Road Traffic accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 1 |
| 35. Other violent causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 9 |
| 36. All other causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 | 31 |

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 Deputy Medical Officer of Health who is also Deputy School Medical Officer.

(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.
4. One Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

All the Inspectors possess Royal Sanitary Institute Certificates as Sanitary Inspectors and all hold the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute relating to the 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.

5. The Public Analyst is a part-time officer, and a Veterinary Surgeon is available for consultation.
6. Eight 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 Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford, which is part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. The results of the examinations of the samples and specimens investigated during the year are stated in the appropriate sections.

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. Houses in High Lane and Black Bank Road, Knutton, and at Burley Farm and Burley Cottage are served by piped supplies taken from the Newcastle Rural District Council. Of the 19,833 houses in the Borough which are supplied with water either by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board or by the Newcastle Rural District Council all, with the exception of sixteen which are supplied by four common stand pipes, are served with water direct to the houses. Nineteen outlying isolated houses and farm premises derive their water supplies from wells and springs, and in thirteen instances where water is not reasonably accessible, the houses involved have been scheduled. The water from one of these wells was found on examination to be unfit for drinking. This well has been cleansed and repaired and the result of the examination of further samples is awaited.

With regard to the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board's supply, the following is a report thereon which I have received from the Engineer and Manager of the Board :—

“ The water supplied by the Board to the Newcastle area, though coming from several sources, is derived from deep wells sunk in the new red sandstone. All the water is treated, that from two sources being chloraminated and from the third chlorinated.

“ During 1949 bacteriological examinations were made of 175 samples, 46 being of raw waters and 129 of treated waters. None of these samples showed Faecal Coli reaction, while 96% of the raw samples and 99% of the treated samples showed absence of *Clostridium Welchii*. All were certified by the Board's Chemist as conforming to the highest standards of bacterial purity indicative of water which is pure and wholesome and suitable for purposes of public supply.

" 9 samples were submitted for chemical analysis and from the chemical aspect these too were certified as pure and wholesome and suitable for purposes of public supply.

" The water is described as being moderately hard ; the saline and mineral constituents in solution are not excessive and is free from metals, apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is not plumbo solvent and the organic quality is of the highest standard. Softening of the water is not undertaken.

" The consumption under the heading of domestic purposes, unmetered trade and waste in the whole of the Board's area of supply for the year 1949 was 24.86 gallons per head per day, being slightly lower compared with the consumption in 1948 of 25.05 gallons per head per day. This is accounted for in some measure by the continuous and intensive waste inspection undertaken by the Board."

The following appeared in a report of a Meeting of the Board contained in the Staffordshire Evening Sentinel on 29th June, 1949 :—

" If the people of North Staffordshire were considerate and intelligent in their use of water, they could be assured of an unfailing supply, said Alderman J. A. Dale (Chairman), at a meeting of the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board, yesterday in the Ash Hall Hotel.

" But, he cautioned, there had been occasions in the present period of peak demand when a pumping capacity of 14,500,000 gallons a day had been called upon to supply 16,000,000 gallons.

" This rate of use,—or, rather, rate of waste, since it was obvious that some people must be squandering water—must lead inevitably to a cut-off in areas where there were no hospitals or important industries"

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. A scheme for

improving the disposal of sewage from this area has been adopted by the Council and has been submitted to the Ministry of Health. The Minister has approved the scheme in principle, but he regrets that, owing to recent restrictions on capital works that can proceed in this country, he must ask for this proposal to be deferred for at least twelve months.

Two thousand four hundred and forty-one lineal yards of new sewers were laid during the year. Six hundred and fifty-six inspections regarding sewers, street gullies, etc., were made, and twenty-six nuisances in connection with complaints 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.

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.

Twelve inspections of 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 | ... | 19,328 |
| No. of houses served by waste water closets | ... .. | 219 |
| No. of houses served by hand-flushed water closets | ... | 97 |
| No. of houses and premises served by privies (154) | ... | 137 |

| | |
|---|--------|
| No. of houses and premises served by pail closets (91) | 71 |
| No. of houses and premises served by standard dustbins | 19,850 |
| No. of houses and premises served by ashpits (3) ... | 3 |

Particulars of conversions made during the year:—

| | |
|---|-------|
| Privies converted to water closets | — |
| Pail closets converted to water closets | — |
| Waste water closets converted to flushed water closets | 14 |
| Hand-flushed closets provided with cisterns ... | 2 |
| Privies converted to pail closets | — |
| Cesspools abolished and drains connected direct to public sewers | — |
| New or additional water closets provided | 11 |
| No. of dry ashpits abolished in favour of bins ... | 4 |
| Standard dustbins replaced or provided through the Local Authority | 1,197 |

Public Cleansing.

SERVICES :

The following is a summary of the cleansing services performed during the year ending 31st March, 1950 :—

Refuse Collection :—

| | |
|--|--------|
| Number of houses and other premises receiving regular refuse collection service | 20,130 |
| Number of premises receiving special trade refuse collection service... .. | 280 |
| Average number of ashbins cleansed per week ... | 12,810 |

(The system of alternate weekly refuse collection from dwellings commenced in 1940 still operates in the majority of houses. A separate salvage collection every third week is maintained).

| | |
|--|-----|
| Average number of privies cleansed per week ... | 135 |
| Average number of pail closets cleansed per week | 91 |
| Number of cesspools cleansed during the year (excluding work undertaken in the Newcastle Rural District area) | 64 |

| | | |
|---|--------|-------------|
| Number of ashpits (emptied) still in use | ... | 3 |
| Total refuse collected —Dry (estimated) | ... | 13,989 tons |
| Salvage | „ | 2,061 „ |
| Wet | „ | 880 „ |
| Weight collected per 1,000 population per day (Dry refuse and salvage) | ... .. | 12.16 cwts. |

Refuse Disposal:—

| | | |
|--|-----|-------------|
| Total estimated refuse dealt with at the Disposal Plant or Tips (excluding wet refuse, salvage or covering material) | ... | 15,900 tons |
| (Incineration 7%, Tipped 80%, Salvage 13%) | | |

Street Cleansing :—

| | | |
|---|--------|-------------|
| Number of Gullies | ... .. | 5,507 |
| Total number of gully cleansings | ... .. | 17,568 |
| Approximate mileage of streets cleansed daily (including Sunday) | ... .. | 1.05 miles. |
| Approximate mileage of streets cleansed three times weekly | ... .. | 3.25 „ |
| Approximate mileage of streets cleansed twice weekly | ... .. | 7.50 „ |
| Approximate mileage of streets cleansed once weekly | ... .. | 60.68 „ |
| Approximate mileage of streets cleansed less than once weekly | ... .. | 10.75 „ |
| Total miles | ... .. | 83.23 |

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 | 56 |
| Refuse disposal | 6 |
| Street cleansing | 23 |

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

COSTS :—

The following figures shew the estimated total costs for all services, with salvage income shown separately.

| ALL SERVICES | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----------------|-------------------|
| Expenditure | ... | ... | £36,650 | |
| Income | ... | ... | £11,620 | (Salvage £8,919). |
| Net Expenditure | ... | | <u>£25,030</u> | |

Public Conveniences :—

The following conveniences are maintained and supervised :—

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Newcastle : | Pepper Street | (Males and Females) |
| „ | Marsh Street | (Males and Females) |
| „ | Hassell Street | Urinal |
| „ | Stubbs Street | „ |
| „ | Liverpool Road | „ |
| Wolstanton : | High Street | (Males and Females) |
| „ | Jubilee Road | Urinal |
| Silverdale : | Crown Street | (Males) |
| Knutton : | Cross Roads | Urinal |
| 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) | ... | 3 |
| | „ (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 | 527 | 2643 | 1576 | 2745 |
| Other Nuisances | 115 | 81 | 93 | 126 |
| Water Supply | 22 | 10 | 21 | 10 |
| Overcrowding | 94 | 21 | 3 | 13 |
| Drains—Inspected | 499 | 66 | 221 | 73 |
| Tested | 159 | — | 9 | — |
| Sewers, Street Gullies, &c. ... | 656 | 26 | 55 | 26 |
| Sanitary Accommodation ... | 39 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Ashes Accommodation | 109 | — | 2 | — |
| Accumulations | 70 | 8 | 22 | 11 |
| Swine, Fowl or other Animals ... | 67 | 5 | 14 | 3 |
| Rivers Pollutions Acts | 12 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Rats and Mice Infestations ... | 1156 | — | 2144 | — |
| (Visits by Inspectors) | | | | |

Other visits :—

| | |
|--|-------|
| Respecting Infectious Diseases ... | 164 |
| „ Verminous Conditions ... | 108 |
| „ Disinfection | 151 |
| „ Schools, Public Buildings, Cinemas, etc. | 30 |
| Miscellaneous Visits | 1,240 |
| Interviews—owners and tradesmen ... | 755 |

Notices served and complied with.

| | Notices Served | | Notices Complied with | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | Prelim. | Statutory | Prelim. | Statutory |
| P.H.A.—Housing Defects | 462 | 104 | 562 | 81 |
| Nuisances | 39 | 10 | 45 | 1 |
| Smoke Nuisance | 2 | 1 | 2 | — |
| Housing Acts | 6 | 61 | 2 | — |
| Factories Act | 8 | 2 | 9 | 1 |
| Food and Drugs Act | 24 | — | 15 | — |
| Byelaws and Local Acts | 2 | — | — | — |
| Shops Act | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Water Act, 1945 | — | — | — | — |

Inspection of Factories.

(a) Inspections.

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 72 | 65 | 7 | — |
| Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 175 | 52 | 3 | — |
| Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ... | 20 | 18 | — | — |
| TOTAL | 267 | 135 | 10 | — |

(b) Cases in which defects were found.

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects were :— | | | | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---|--|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Found | Re-medied | Referred to H.M. Inspector | by H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1.) | 13 | 13 | — | 3 | — |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 3 | 2 | — | 3 | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 15 | 12 | — | 15 | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 33 | 29 | — | 22 | — |

(c) Outworkers premises.

| Business carried on | No. of Premises | No. of Visits |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Making of Wearing apparel | 9 | 8 |
| Furniture and Upholstery | 2 | 2 |
| Plastics (make up) | 24 | 10 |
| Watch repairs | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 37 | 22 |

Rodent Control.

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

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out during February and July, with an operating squad consisting of an inspector, a rodent operator, two sewer men and the use of a 30 cwt. van. A total of 1056 sewer manholes were inspected and of these 1020 were baited and 139 showed pre-bait takes. According to the Ministry formula this shows that the "intensity of infestation" is small and the "extent of infestation" limited.

Records show the following work undertaken :—

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|------------------|
| Rat complaints received | ... | ... | 84 | |
| Visits made by operator | ... | ... | 3,488 | |
| Premises treated | ... | ... | 208 | |
| Water-courses treated | ... | ... | 30 | |
| Number of rats destroyed :— | | | | |
| (a) Estimated by baits | ... | ... | 871 | } Total 1,507 |
| (b) Caught and trapped | ... | ... | 636 | |

The gross expenditure of rodent control during the year was £458.

Shop Sanitation.

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of sanitary visits made to shops | 16 |
| Number of nuisances or defects found | 12 |
| Number of nuisances or defects remedied | 10 |

Offensive Trades.

| | |
|---|----|
| Number recorded as being within the Borough | 19 |
| Fat Melters, etc. | 6 |
| Tripe Boilers | 8 |
| Rag and Bone Dealers | 4 |
| Bone Boiler | 1 |
| Number of new offensive trades established | — |
| Number of inspections made | 19 |
| Nuisances or defects found | 2 |
| Nuisances or defects remedied | 2 |

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 ... 20 beds (males).
 Number of inspections made ... 6

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Number of inspections made ... 5
 Nuisances or defects found ... 2
 Nuisances or defects remedied ... 2

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Total number of semi-permanent vans, etc.,
 existing at the end of the year ... 15
 Number of vans, etc., in possession of owner-
 occupiers ... 15
 Number of vans, etc., known to be over-
 crowded ... 7
 Number of vans, etc., unfit for habitation 7
 Number of visits and inspections made ... 55
 Nuisances or defects found ... 4
 Nuisances or defects remedied ... 5

Smoke Abatement.

Number of recorded observations made 16
 Number of statutory notices served ... 1
 Number of statutory notices complied with —
 Premises visited following observations 14

Two Deposit Gauges to record measurement of atmospheric pollution have been sited in the Borough since April, 1949.

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 |
| 39 | 8 | — | 8 | 56 | 8 | — | 8 |

SECTION D.

Housing.

General.

Housing Census :—

- (1) Total number of inhabited houses in the
Borough 19,852
- (2) Number of new houses erected during the
year :—
 - (a) by Private Enterprise ... 17
 - (b) by Local Authority ... 159

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

Inspections :—

| | Primary | Re-visits |
|--|---------|-----------|
| (a) Part 1—Clearance Areas | — | 15 |
| (b) Part 2—Section 9—Reconditioning | 50 | 174 |
| Sections 11/12 —Demolition or closure... | 14 | 39 |

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) 468
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 527
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 12
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 12
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 12

| | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| (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 | ... .. | 456 |
| 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 | ... .. | 450 |
| 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 | ... .. | 104 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | |
| (a) by Owners | ... .. | 80 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners | ... .. | 1 |
| (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 | ... | 9 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | 8 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in anticipation of formal procedure | ... | 3 |

- (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 1
- (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 221*

*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 few years is known to have been considerable. Twenty-one new cases brought to notice were recorded and thirteen removed from register, having been rehoused by the local authority.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Record of Inspections and Results.

| | Inspections | Re-Inspections | Nuisances or defects | |
|---|-------------|----------------|----------------------|--------|
| | | | Found | Abated |
| Cowsheds | 42 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Dairies and Milkshops | 96 | 10 | 4 | 5 |
| Ice Cream Premises | 141 | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| Food Preparing Premises... .. | 148 | 47 | 51 | 78 |
| Bakehouses | 36 | 3 | 10 | 13 |
| Slaughterhouses and Butchers Shops | 195 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| General Food Premises | 199 | 14 | 33 | 14 |
| Meat and Food Premises | 332 | — | — | — |
| Market Inspections | 253 | — | — | — |

(a) **Milk Supply.**

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of Dairy Farms in the Borough (including 18 Producer/Retailers) | 40 |
| The number of milch cows kept approximate to... | 850 |
| Producers of graded milk | 10 |
| Number of Retail Purveyors of milk | 228 |
| (a) Resident | 208 |
| (b) Non-Resident | 20 |

Several of these purveyors distribute both loose and bottled milk, but of the resident purveyors, 159 retail bottled milk only.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Number of Daily Milkshops... .. | 22 |
|---------------------------------|----|

Fourteen retail purveyors hold licences for the sale of graded milk. The following licences in connection with such grades were issued during the year :—

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Tuberculin Tested | 13 |
| Accredited | — |
| Pasteurised | 10 |

Four bottling licenses were issued during the year :—

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Tuberculin Tested | 2 |
| Accredited | — |
| Pasteurised | 2 |

Two premises are licensed as pasteurising plants.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of existing Cowsheds reconstructed | — |
| Number of Cowsheds discontinued | — |
| Number of new Cowsheds erected | — |
| Number of new or improved Dairies | 1 |

Number of Ice Cream premises registered under Private Act :—

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|-------|
| Sale only | 77 | } 110 |
| Manufacture and Sale | 33 | |

Bacteriological Samples.

| Type | No. Submitted | No. failed Cleanliness Test | Examined for T.B. | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | | | No. Submitted | No. Positive |
| Milk : | | | | |
| (a) Heat Treated | × 60 | 1 | Nil | Nil |
| (b) Other Grades | 26 | 7 | 5 | Nil |
| (c) Ordinary | 18 | 6 | 16 | Nil |
| Ice Cream : | 23 | 9 | Nil | Nil |

× All samples passed Heat-treatment Test.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**

Number of butchers' shops registered under Private Act (including Market Stalls) ... 85

Number of Preserved Food preparing premises registered (including Fish Fryers, 46)... 99

There is no public slaughter-house in the Borough. There are 7 registered and 5 licensed slaughter-houses in the Borough, the use of which has been suspended since 1939, except that five of these are occasionally used for slaughter of pigs for home consumption.

The number of men licensed to slaughter animals in accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, is 43.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

| | Cattle exclud'g Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|--|----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Number Killed (if known) ... | — | — | — | — | 300 |
| Number Inspected ... | 8 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 300 |
| All Diseases except Tuberculosis | | | | | |
| Whole Carcases Condemned ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | — | — | — | 1 | 18 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ... | — | — | — | — | 6.3% |
| Tuberculosis Only | | | | | |
| Whole Carcases Condemned ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | — | — | — | — | 28 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... | — | — | — | — | 9.3% |

Total weight condemned, 9 cwt. 87 lbs.

Surrenders of Other Food.

| | lbs. |
|---|-------|
| Cooked meats | 216 |
| Bacon and ham | 191 |
| Fish and shellfish | 1,017 |
| Butter, margarine and cooking fats | 78 |
| Cheese | 220 |
| Flour, bread and cake | 8,233 |
| Pickles and sauces | 279 |
| Sausage Meat | 54 |
| Eggs | 24 |
| Preserves and fruit pulp | 174 |
| Dried fruits | 127 |
| Tinned meat | 886 |
| Tinned fish | 241 |
| Tinned vegetables | 1,692 |
| Tinned milk | 1,960 |
| Tinned soup | 169 |
| Tinned fruit and fruit juices | 1,408 |
| Rabbits | 1,421 |
| Fresh vegetables | 480 |

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

| Total number of samples taken | | | | ... | 159 | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| Milk | ... | ... | 102 | Sausages | ... | ... | 7 |
| Malt Vinegar | | ... | 2 | Gelatine | ... | ... | 4 |
| Cocoa | ... | ... | 1 | Self-raising flour | | ... | 3 |
| Baking powder | | ... | 1 | Saccharin | ... | ... | 2 |
| Jam | ... | ... | 4 | Meat Paste | ... | ... | 2 |
| Pure coffee | ... | ... | 1 | Coffee and chicory | | ... | 1 |
| Glycerine | ... | ... | 2 | Castor Oil | ... | ... | 1 |
| Boracic ointment | | ... | 1 | Meat pie | ... | ... | 1 |
| Almond flavouring | ... | | 2 | Tea extender tablets... | | | 1 |
| Liquid paraffin | ... | | 1 | Aspirin | ... | ... | 1 |
| White pepper | ... | | 2 | Tea seed (cooking oil) | | | 1 |
| Ice Cream | ... | ... | 16 | | | | |

Observations.

Eight samples were adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst.

| Sample No. | Description | Result of Analysis | Remarks |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 158 | Milk | 5.5% added water 4.8% deficient in solids-not-fat | These samples involved a retailer and supplier. Summons were issued against both retailer and supplier, the supplier was fined £10 with £5 10s. costs and the case against the retailer was dismissed |
| 162 | Milk | 3.9% added water 6.8% deficient in solids-not-fat | |
| 163 | Milk | 5.5% added water 4.2% deficient in solids-not-fat | |
| 164 | Milk | 6.7% added water 6.7% deficient in solids-not-fat | |
| 165 | Milk | 3.8% added water 3.2% deficient in solids-not-fat | |
| 190 | Milk | 13.3% deficient in fat | An "appeal to cow" sample, following No. 190 revealed a natural deficiency of 1.7%. Warning letter to farmer to thoroughly mix and ensure that blending was carefully carried out. |
| 193 | Milk | 6.7% deficient in fat | Warning letter sent to producer retailer. |
| 291 | Beef Sausage (Informal sample) | 7.2% deficient in meat content | Follow-up sample genuine. Warning letter sent to manufacturer. |

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 1949, a total of 523 children (440 under five and 83 five years and over) were immunised against diphtheria and 266 re-inforcement injections were given.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year.

Food Poisoning.

The following table shows the position regarding the three instances of food poisoning that occurred in the Borough during the year :—

| Total No. Of Outbreaks | Number of Cases | Number of Deaths | Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each | Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|---|
| 3 | 254 | — | (1) Paracolon bacilli and streptococcus faecalis. One outbreak. | (1) Meat Pie. One outbreak. |
| | | | (2) Staphylococcal enterotoxin. One outbreak. | (2) Cold roast beef. One outbreak. |
| | | | (3) * Undetermined. One outbreak. | (3) * ? Haddock. ? Pastry with chocolate and marzipan. One outbreak. |

*The suspected food, and specimens of the urine and faeces of the person affected, of her husband and of persons dealing with the preparation of the suspected food were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, but no pathogenic organisms were isolated from any of these specimens.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

During the year, one case, a man living alone, was dealt with under the above. The reason for the Council's action was that the person involved was aged and living in insanitary conditions and that he was unable to devote to himself, and was not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention. The period named in the Order of the Court was three months and the type of accommodation to which the person was removed was a hospital.

In the case of the woman alluded to in my Annual Report for 1948 as having been dealt with under the above, subsequent Orders have been made by the Court extending the period of her detention.

Table 2.—Cases of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1949
(Civilians only).

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASES | TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED | | | | | | | | | | | | | Percentage of Cases removed to Hospital |
|---|----------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| | AT ALL AGES | AT ALL AGES | | | | | | | | | | | | Total cases removed to Hospital |
| | | 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) | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) | ... | 11 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 11 |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | 82 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 15 | 32 | 19 | 4 | — | — | 1 | — | 75 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | ... | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Pneumonia | ... | 17 | 2 | — | 1 | — | 4 | 2 | — | — | — | 4 | 3 | * |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pemphigus Neonatorum | ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 100 |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | ... | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas | ... | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2 |
| Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis | ... | 5 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | * |
| Measles | ... | 228 | 28 | 36 | 35 | 37 | 79 | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 5 |
| Whooping Cough | ... | 168 | 20 | 30 | 32 | 22 | 47 | 3 | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | * |
| Dysentery | ... | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * |
| Food Poisoning | ... | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | — | 1 |

* Information not available.

Table 3.—Deaths from Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1949.

| 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 Membranous Croup) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever... .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 25 | 6 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 6 | 10 |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

Table 4.—Notification of and Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1949.

| AGE PERIODS | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | Respiratory | | Non-respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 1 and under 5 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 5 and under 15 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| 15 and under 25 | 4 | 10 | 2 | — | 4 | 5 | 1 | — |
| 25 and under 35 | 8 | 9 | 2 | — | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| 35 and under 45 | 4 | 2 | — | — | 2 | 3 | — | — |
| 45 and under 55 | 6 | 2 | — | 1 | 3 | — | — | — |
| 55 and under 65 | 9 | 2 | 1 | — | 4 | 1 | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | 3 | 1 | — | — | 3 | 2 | — | — |
| TOTAL | 39 | 33 | 7 | 4 | 18 | 14 | 2 | 1 |

Of the 35 deaths from tuberculosis, 27 or 77.14% had been notified. Of the 32 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, 26 or 81.25% had been notified and of the 3 deaths from other forms of tuberculosis 1 or 33.33% had been notified.

